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# RUSSIAN METHODS OF INTERROGATING

*705724*

## CAPTURED PERSONNEL



## WORLD WAR II

### VOLUME II : APPENDIXES

By

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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RUSSIAN METHODS  
OF  
INTERROGATING CAPTURED PERSONNEL  
WORLD WAR II

Volume II: Appendixes

by

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W A R N I N G

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Office of the Chief of Military History

Department of the Army

1952

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APPENDIX I\*

Form for Report on Prisoners Captured by Reconnaissance  
Units, Rifle Companies, and Battalions.

Note: The following questions were printed on a form with appropriate  
blank spaces for filling in answers.

To \_\_\_\_\_  
From \_\_\_\_\_  
No. \_\_\_\_\_ Time of departure \_\_\_\_\_  
Map \_\_\_\_\_ Edition \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

A. For Individual Prisoners (when there is enough time)

1. Last name, first name, rank, and duty \_\_\_\_\_
2. Subsection, unit, branch of service \_\_\_\_\_
3. Time of capture \_\_\_\_\_
4. Circumstance of capture \_\_\_\_\_
5. Outstanding data (briefly) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Accompanying documents \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Receipt of the consignee: No. \_\_\_\_\_ Time of receipt \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_ Number of prisoners and a list of  
documents taken from them \_\_\_\_\_

B. For a Large Number of Prisoners (when time is limited)

Subsection \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Officers \_\_\_\_\_ NCOs \_\_\_\_\_ Soldiers \_\_\_\_\_  
Place and time of capture \_\_\_\_\_

More important testimony of individual prisoners (They are inter-  
rogated only briefly and if time permits) \_\_\_\_\_  
Accompanying documents \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt of the consignee: No. \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_ Number of  
prisoners \_\_\_\_\_ List of documents \_\_\_\_\_

\*

Reference: CIA Document OO-W-1009 (C), p. 17.

Appendix I  
Form 1

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~~SECRET~~ ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~Form for Interrogation of Prisoners at Regimental Level  
During Offensive Operations

[Note: The following questions were printed on a form with appropriate blank spaces for filling in answers. This was not a fixed pattern.]

Interrogation SheetHQ \_\_\_\_\_ Rifle Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ 194 \_\_\_\_\_  
Map \_\_\_\_\_ Edition \_\_\_\_\_

1. Last, first, middle name of prisoner. Social status, place of birth, duty, rank or rating, age, nationality, conscripted or enlisted, when and where captured.
2. To what unit did prisoner (deserter) belong? (In questioning, try to establish the highest military unit of which the prisoner has knowledge.)
3. Where did the unit come from? What is its disposition, composition, and mission?
4. Location of Headquarters.
5. Names and ranks of immediate superiors and their characteristics.
6. What are the neighboring units: location, numbers, missions, locations of reserves?
7. Where is the front line defense, barbed wire (how many rows), mine fields, land mines? Are there concrete fortifications and where are they? Antitank guns, machine guns, mortars? How long did it take to build the defenses? Depth of trenches? Are there any defenses in depth?
8. How many and where are the tanks, artillery, and other technical equipment? Calibers and other technical information.
9. To what locality are they ordered to retreat? What are the losses? Who orders the retreat? Whereabouts of tanks and artillery? Are reserves arriving? From where? What is their composition? (Note: These questions are asked when fighting within enemy defenses.)
10. Adequacy of unit's supply, food situation, equipment, clothing.
11. What is the morale of the soldiers? What is the trend of conversation on recent battles?
12. Morale of local inhabitants.
13. Additional questions.
14. Grade of reliability of information.

Interrogated \_\_\_\_\_  
The following documents were taken from the prisoner \_\_\_\_\_~~SECRET~~ ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

**SECRET** **SECURITY INFORMATION**  
Form for Interrogation of Prisoners at Regimental Level  
During a Defensive Operation

Note: The following questions were printed on a form with appropriate blank spaces for filling in answers. This was not a fixed pattern.

Interrogation Sheet

HQ \_\_\_\_\_ Rifle Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 194 \_\_\_\_\_  
Map \_\_\_\_\_ Edition \_\_\_\_\_

1. Last, first, middle name of prisoner. Social status, place of birth, duty, rank or rating, age, nationality, conscripted or enlisted, when and where captured.
2. To what unit did prisoner (deserter) belong?
3. Where did the unit come from? What is its disposition, composition, and mission?
4. Location of Headquarters.
5. Names and ranks of immediate superiors and their characteristics.
6. What are the neighboring units: location, numbers, missions, locations of reserves?
7. Location and quantity of: machine guns, mortars, tanks (particularly), antitank and infantry artillery, observation and command posts, reserves.
8. Location and quantity of: artillery, artillery units, motorized units, new means of warfare.
9. Unit losses and adequacy of supplies, food situation, equipment, clothing.
10. What is the morale of the soldiers? What is the trend of conversation on recent battles?
11. Additional questions.
12. Grade of reliability of information.

Interrogated \_\_\_\_\_

The following documents were taken from the prisoner: \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix I  
Form 3

**SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION**

Form for Interrogation of Prisoners at Division Level  
During Offensive Operations

[Note: The following questions were printed on a form with appropriate blank spaces for filling in answers. This was not a fixed pattern.]

Interrogation Sheet

HQ \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_\_\_\_  
Map \_\_\_\_\_ Edition \_\_\_\_\_

1. Last, first, middle name of prisoner. Social status, place of birth, duty, rank or rating, age, nationality, conscripted or enlisted, when and where captured. Occupation before military service. Date prisoner joined this unit and his assignments. Where and when taken prisoner.

2. To what regiment, division, and corps did the prisoner belong? Ranks and names of commanders of those units as well as those of the chiefs of staff. Is his unit temporarily or permanently assigned to this command?

3. Location of Headquarters and command posts (note on map).

4. Neighboring units on the right and left; their missions.

5. Missions of the unit and division. Arrived from where?

Replaced what units?

6. Where is the front line of defense, barbed wire, mine fields, land mines? Are there concrete fortifications and where are they? Antitank guns, machine guns, mortars? How long did it take to build the defenses? Depth of trenches? Are there any defenses in depth?

7. Location and disposition of artillery, tanks, chemical units. Any air force? Other technical weapons?

8. Arrival of new units: kind, time of arrival, strength, place of departure and destination, number, where from.

9. What units along the route of the prisoner?

10. Location of rear installations.

11. Fighting qualities of the unit. Losses in the last battles.

12. What replacements have arrived recently? How often, when, and from where?

13. Additional questions.

14. Conclusion: Grade of reliability of answers given by the prisoner, depending on his class standing, nationality, and condition (degree of fatigue and depression).

Interrogated \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_\_\_\_  
The following documents were taken from the prisoner \_\_\_\_\_

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Appendix I  
Form 4

**SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION**Form for Interrogation of Prisoners at Division Level  
During Defensive Operations

[Note: The following questions were printed on a form with appropriate blank spaces for filling in answers. This was not a fixed pattern.]

Interrogation Sheet

HQ \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_\_\_\_  
Map \_\_\_\_\_ Edition \_\_\_\_\_

1. Last, first, middle name of prisoner. Social status, place of birth, duty, rank or rating, age, nationality, conscripted or enlisted, when and where captured. Occupation before military service. Date prisoner joined this unit and his assignments. Where and when taken prisoner.
2. To what regiment, division, and corps did the prisoner belong? Ranks and names of commanders of those units as well as those of the chiefs of staff. Is his unit temporarily or permanently assigned to this command?
3. Location of Headquarters and command posts (note on map).
4. Neighboring units on the right and left: their missions.
5. Missions of the unit and division. Arrived from where?  
Replaced what units?
6. How many and what units comprise the first echelon? Type and quantity of ranks, artillery, chemical units, and other technical equipment. Location of the main concentration of troops, reserves and support units, motorized units, cavalry.
7. Arrival and new units: kind, time of arrival, strength, place of departure and destination, number, where from.
8. What units along the route of the prisoner?
9. Amount of losses. Soldiers' morale.
10. Adequacy of supply of a unit. Food situation. Disposition and kind of rear installations.
11. What replacements arrived recently?
12. Additional questions.
13. Conclusion: Degree of reliability of prisoner's information.

Interrogated \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_\_\_\_  
The following documents are forwarded \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix I  
Form 5

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APPENDIX II\*

Item 1

SOVIET EVACUATION ORDERS

[Note: This document is an English translation of a German translation of a Russian order. Since the original Russian document is not available, direct quotations from the German document are included in brackets when the meaning is in question.]

Order of the Peoples' Commissariat for the Defense of the USSR

2 January 1943

No. 001

Moscow

SUBJECT: Procedure for Evacuating Prisoners of War from the Frontlines

A number of serious defects have been observed in the evacuation and protection of prisoners of war at the front and enroute to the reception camp:

1. Prisoners of war are retained too long by units of the Red Army. From the moment of capture to the time of entraining, prisoners have to cover from 200 to 300 kilometers on foot. Frequently, they do not receive rations of any kind. As a result, they arrive sick and in a state of considerable exhaustion.
2. A large number of prisoners do not have any warm clothing of their own. Contrary to (my) orders, they are not issued clothing from captured stocks.
3. Prisoners marching from the place of capture to the entraining point are often guarded by too small a number of soldiers or not at all. As a result, they lose themselves among the civilian population.
4. By order of the Army Rear Area Headquarters of the Red Army [Stab des rueckwaertigen Heeresgebietes der Roten Armee] and the Red Army Main Directorate for Ration Supply [Hauptverwaltung des Proviantnachsches der Roten Armee] the prisoner of war reception camps and assembly points of the NKVD are to be furnished with

\*Source: German PW Survey Foreign Armies East [H/3/682] has been translated for this appendix rather than the less complete German version cited in note 25, Chapter VII: Study Deutsche Kriegsgefangene in der Sowjetunion, in Anti-Komintern File EAP 116/95.

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rations and transportation by the army groups. They are, however, supplied only to such a limited extent that not even the minimum requirements are satisfied.

5. The Army Transportation Inspectorates /Heeresverkehrsinspektion/ with the army groups do not furnish rolling stock in time and in sufficient numbers for purposes of evacuating prisoners of war to rear-area camps; furthermore, such rolling stock as has been made available is totally unsuitable for the transport of human beings, since it contains neither cots nor stoves, washbasins, wood, and housekeeping equipment.

6. Contrary to the directive on prisoners of war approved by the Commissariat of /Public/ Health in the USSR /Kommissariat fuer das Gesundheitswesen in der UdSSR/ and contrary to the directive issued by the Chief of the Army Medical Service, wounded and sick prisoners of war are not admitted to the field hospitals, but shipped through regular channels to the reception camps and NKVD camps. As a result, a great many prisoners die of exhaustion prior to evacuation to the rear or enroute to the rear.

In order to eliminate such defects in the care of prisoners of war once and for all and to preserve them as a source of labor, Commanding Generals of the Army Groups will carry out the following orders:

1. Secure the prompt evacuation of prisoners of war to assembly points. In order to expedite the evacuation, all transportation returning empty from the front is to be utilized.

2. Instruct unit commanders to issue rations to prisoners of war in transit prior to their transfer to an NKVD Camp in accordance with allowances established by the Commissariat of /Public/ Health in the USSR in /Directive/ No. 1874/874c. Prisoner of war shipments are to be furnished field kitchens from captured stocks and transportation needed for the hauling of rations.

3. Render prompt medical aid to sick or wounded prisoners of war in accordance with prisoner of war regulation, Directive of the Commissariat of /Public/ Health in the USSR No. 1798/300c, dated 5 July 1941.

Do not evacuate sick, wounded, completely exhausted, and frostbitten prisoners through regular channels to NKVD assembly points. Such prisoners are to be admitted to a /field/ hospital and evacuated with the next shipment /of sick and wounded/ to the rear for specialist treatment. They will receive rations in accordance with allowances established for sick prisoners of war.

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Item 1

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4. Provide sufficient escort personnel for the evacuation of prisoners of war from the place of capture to the reception camps of the NKVD.

5. Locate the prisoner of war entraining points as close as possible to assembly points so as to avoid long marches on foot.

6. Give a shipping list to the men in charge of the shipment. This roster should list the number of prisoners of war, the rations issued to the prisoners, equipment supplied for the shipment, and the means of transportation. The prisoner of war roster must be produced at the time the prisoners are turned over to the reception camp. The men in charge of the shipment are to be instructed to list all documents which were taken from the prisoners in order to transmit them to the reception camp.

7. Limit the daily rate of march to 25-30 kilometers. After each 26-30 kilometers, rest stations should be established where prisoners can spend the night. At these stations, prisoners should be provided with hot food and hot water and given an opportunity to warm themselves.

8. Prisoners of war will be permitted to keep [outer] clothing, shoes, underwear, bedding, and mess gear. If prisoners lack warm clothing, shoes, and mess gear of their own, such articles must be supplied from captured stocks and from the property of killed and deceased enemy officers and enlisted men.

9. Commanding Generals of Army Groups and Military Districts will carry out the following orders:

a. Check immediately, in accordance with Directive No. 24/103892, dated 30 November 1942, of the Rear Area Main Directorate of the Red Army / Stab der obersten Verwaltung im ruckwaertigen Gebiet der Roten Armee / and with Directive No. 3911/III, dated 10 December 1942, of the Red Army Main Directorate for Ration Supply / Stab der Obersten Verwaltung fuer den Verpflegungsnachschub der Roten Armee /, to see that NKVD reception camps and transient camps are properly supplied with rations. Rations should be stockpiled at assembly points and transient camps in order to assure uniform distribution of food to prisoners of war.

b. Furnish the reception and transient camps of the NKVD with sufficient transportation and housekeeping equipment. In case of a very heavy flow of prisoners, additional transportation and housekeeping equipment should be issued to assembly points and camps.

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10. The Chief of the Red Army Transportation Inspectorate  
/Chef der Heeresverkehrsinspektion der Roten Armee/ will carry out the following orders:

- a. Make available the requisite number of /railroad/ cars for immediate transport of prisoners of war to camps; equip the cars with cots, stoves, and wash basins; provide for uniform heating along the route of travel; utilize units which are drawn from combat troops for transporting prisoners of war to the rear.
- b. Assure the rapid movement of these units as troop transports.
- c. At the Red Army Transportation Inspectorate, establish a movement control agency which will supervise the movement of units escorting prisoners of war.
- d. Limit the load of prisoners of war per /railroad/ car so that 44 - 50 men are allocated to a two-axle car and 80 - 90 men to a four-axle car. Prisoner of war shipments should be made up of no more than 1,500 men.
- e. Provide warm meals regularly for the prisoners of war and supplement travel rations at all ration points and messing establishments in accordance with ration vouchers which have been issued by army units, reception points, and NKVD camps.
- f. Provide an adequate supply of drinking water for the prisoners and see to it that three pails are placed in each two-axle car and five pails in each four-axle car.

11. The Chief of the Red Army Medical service will carry out the following orders:

- a. Assure the medical treatment of sick, wounded, frostbitten, and greatly exhausted prisoners of war in the Red Army medical installations at and near the front.
- b. Organize their prompt evacuation to hospitals in the rear for specialist treatment.
- c. Detail the requisite medical personnel, with adequate medical supplies, to minister to the prisoners of war while in transit. Medical personnel from among the prisoners is also to be utilized for such duties.

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d. Screen and check prisoner-of-war transports in transit at the points of evacuation and furnish medical aid to the sick. Prisoners whose states of health do not permit resumption of travel are to be taken off the shipment, admitted to the nearest hospital, and, at the earliest opportunity, evacuated to a hospital in the rear for specialist treatment.

e. Exercise hygienic care of the prisoners of war by disinfecting their personal belongings while in transit.

f. Take measures to prevent epidemics among the prisoners of war until such time that they are turned over to the NKVD camp.

12. Prohibit the shipment of prisoners of war in railroad cars which are not heated and unfit for the transport of human beings and which do not carry an adequate supply of wood, travel rations, and housekeeping equipment. See to it, moreover, that prisoners are not shipped without seasonal clothing and shoes.

13. Transmit this order by teletype.

By Order / of the Peoples' Commissariat for the  
Defense of the USSR /

The Deputy Peoples' Commissar for Defense

General / Generaloberst-Intendant /

A. Chruliev

"A True Copy" B.O. 18th S.G. Corps  
Technician 2d Grade Gerasimow

"A True Copy of the Copy"  
Chief of the Secret Section 1st Lt. Babik  
(signature)

Appendix II  
Item 1

APPENDIX II\*  
Item 2

RED ARMY ORDER:  
PROCESSING OF PRISONERS

Annex 1 to HQ Third Panzer Army, 1c/AO\*\*  
(Translation Sub-Section) /Report/  
No. 0950/44, Confidential, dtd 24 Aug 44  
-----

Translation

Infantry Regiment 156

Strictly Confidential  
No. 0023

Order by HQ 16th Division 1700 hours

7 July 1944

To this date, violations of order 001, issued in 1943 by the Peoples' Commissariat for the Defense of the USSR, still occur among the troop units of the division. As a rule, prisoners are held too long at the regimental headquarters, and, as a result, information obtained from the enemy loses its value.

There have also been additional instances of depriving prisoners, in contravention of orders, of valuables, clothing, and footwear (156th Infantry Regiment).

The Division Commander has issued orders as follows:

1. After a tentative interrogation, all prisoners, accompanied by a copy of the interrogation report, will be turned over to the 2d Staff Section of Division HQ. Prisoners who can reveal important information about the enemy will be sent on immediately after the interrogation.
2. The stealing of the prisoners' personal belongings, their valuables, clothing, and footwear, is to be categorically prohibited.
3. The use of scouts as guard-escort personnel for prisoners is to be discontinued.

Chief of Staff  
Colonel

Signature (Urbschas)

Appendix II  
Item 2

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Ic  
Major

Signature (Schimko)

5 copies  
1 copy for files  
4 copies to addressees

I certify that this is a correct  
translation:

signed Marquat, Sondefuehrer (G)  
/Noncommissioned specialist/

\*Source: GMDS Special order (translation) dtd 7 July 44, by HQ  
16th Infantry Division, in Third Panzer Army G-2 File.

\*\*Ic/AO corresponds to U.S. Army G-2 staff section.

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APPENDIX III\*

Item 1

POLITICAL INTERROGATION  
DIRECTIVE

[Note: See pages 170ff of the text for a discussion concerning the origin of this document. The date, 1944, in the text (page 170) is an error, the document having been captured by the Germans in the spring of 1942. A covering letter, not reproduced here, accompanied the German translation of this document which stated that the original Soviet document was dated 3 October 1941, that it was issued by the Main Political Directorate of the Peoples' Commissariat of Defense, and that it was signed by L. Mechlis.]

Annex to OKH, Army General Staff-Fourth General Staff Officer, Branch

Foreign Armies East (II c) No. 1609/42 Confidential, Dated 19 April 1942.

Translation

Directive Concerning the Political Interrogation of Captured Enlisted and Officer Personnel

1. From the moment of his capture by the Red Army and during the entire duration of his captivity, the enemy enlisted man (officer must be under continuous indoctrination by political workers. The basic objectives of this indoctrination are:

- a. To discover, unmask, and isolate fascist elements;
- b. To arouse class consciousness and to re-educate along anti-fascist lines the soldiers who were deceived by Hitler and his henchmen;
- c. To round up soldiers of antifascist conviction and give them a comprehensive political indoctrination.

2. The political interrogation of prisoners of war is to pursue the following objectives:

- a. To ascertain the political and moral attitude of interrogated personnel;

\*Source: Directive on the Political Interrogation of Captured Enlisted and Officer Personnel, dtd 3 Oct 41, in document file of Army Group North, Heutebefehle, Ic/AO, 15.IX.41 - 2.I.43.

- b. To ascertain the political and moral condition of the unit in which the prisoner served;
- c. To determine the type of ideological training which the soldiers have received as well as the subject matter of such training and the topics used in discussion;
- d. To obtain information on the effect of Russian propaganda and on antifascist activity among the enemy's [frontline] troops and the army rear area;
- e. To indoctrinate the prisoner morally and politically so as to unmask fascism and arouse sympathies for the Workers' Council among the elements which are socially akin to us;
- f. To collect material and information which may be important to our propaganda efforts directed at the enemy's troops and population.

3. The political interrogation is to be conducted by the political workers of the divisions, armies, and army groups, i.e. by those who have command of the appropriate foreign language and who have been cleared for this work by order of the chiefs of the division and army political sections or by the political directorates of the army groups. If necessary, a suitable and certified interpreter can be assigned to assist the interrogator. The presence of other personnel not cleared for interrogation duties is not permitted.

Note: Wounded enlisted men and officers will be subject to the same interrogation procedure as other prisoners; the interrogation, however, will be shortened. Recuperated prisoners will be subjected to a complete interrogation by the camp commissars.

Without exception, interrogations will be conducted individually and orally. Written statements pertaining to one or the other question can be requested from the prisoner only after termination of the oral interrogation. If a group of prisoners is on hand [the following procedure should be followed]:

- a. Separate officers and enlisted men immediately in order to prevent the officers from influencing the enlisted men;
  - b. Interrogate the enlisted men first, then the noncommissioned officers, and finally the officers.
4. The interrogator will be guided by the attached questionnaire and will see to it that the information to be obtained will be as complete as possible. Supplementary questions may be asked, if the

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importance of the person to be interrogated warrants it. In dealing with prisoners, the dignity of Red Army personnel must be preserved. Familiarity must be prevented by all means.

5. The attached questionnaire is to be used in interrogating enlisted men and noncommissioned officers (up to and including the rank of Feldwebel [platoon sergeant]) who have a labor or farm background. When interrogating prisoners from other social strata, the interrogator will make appropriate changes in the relevant questions (see Section III of the questionnaire). Members of the SS and Military Police (Feldgendarmarie) will be asked supplementary questions. Appropriate changes will also be made in interrogating prisoners of non-German nationality (including Austrians and Poles).

6. Information obtained from a prisoner is to be checked and supplemented through appropriate interrogation of other prisoners.

7. Each interrogation will be recorded in a detailed written report. In order to avoid mistakes in the spelling of proper names, geographical terms, etc., such names and terms will be recorded in the language of the prisoner as well as in Russian. Furthermore, certain characteristic expressions and phrases will be taken down verbatim. Arguments of the prisoner pertaining to fundamental political questions (particularly arguments directed against the fascist regime and the war of depredation unleashed by Hitler) must be recorded with particular care.

8. In writing the report, general and vague statements and conclusions must be avoided. Every fact which testifies to the disintegration of the political and moral structure of the army and the zone of interior is to be recorded accurately and in detail: who [said it], where [was it said], to whom [was it said], when was it said and what was said, what was done, under what circumstances [was it done], etc.

9. Each report must be drawn with care (date, signature). The political sections of the divisions will forward the reports to the political section of the army, which in turn will transmit them to the political directorate at army group. The army group political directorates will forward the interrogation reports to the Main Political Directorate of the Red Army. A copy of each interrogation report will be sent to the commander of the transit camp, to which the prisoner is assigned prior to being shipped to an appropriate [permanent] PW camp. The report will be accompanied by a photograph of the interrogated prisoner (showing him, if possible, in a clean and well-groomed condition). On the back of the picture, the name, unit, date of interrogation, and number of interrogation report will be noted.

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10. Documents (letters, diaries, photographs, orders, directives, newspapers, and magazines) will be forwarded to the Main Political Directorate of the Red Army. Letters, diaries, and photographs will carry, if possible, a notation listing the name and [civilian] occupation of the source, his unit, and the date of capture.

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APPENDIX III\*

Item 2

GUIDE FOR THE POLITICAL INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS

[Note: For a discussion concerning the origin of this document, see page 175 of the text. This document is an annex to the foregoing political interrogation directive (Item 1) but is presented here as a separate item because it was obtained from another source.]

Korpsgruppe\*\*Breith  
G-2 [Ic] Section

In the field, 29 May 1942

Copy of a "Guide" for the political interrogation of prisoners of war, found among the papers of a commissar (HQ Sixth Army?) killed in action in the pocket south of Kharkov.

Copy

Guide for the Political Interrogation of Prisoners of War  
(from the "Directive Concerning the Political Interrogation  
of Captured Enlisted and Officer Personnel")

Restricted

28 March 1942

I. General Data

1. Date and place of interrogation.
2. Organization, rank, and name of the interrogator.
3. What is your first and last name?
4. When were you born?

\* Source: Guide for the Political Interrogation of PW's dtd 28 Mar 42, in G-2 file of 3rd Panzer Division, Anlage II zum Taetigkeitsbericht, Ic, Ausgehende Meldungen, Akte I, Russland, 7.II.-31.VIII.42.

\*\*Korpsgruppe: Two or three understrength divisions assembled into a tactical unit under a corps commander with an improvised corps staff.

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5. Where were you born? (Locality and province)
6. What is your military rank?
7. To which unit do you belong? (Specify)
8. To which party did you belong? (Include affiliations prior to entering military service)
9. What is your nationality?
10. What is your religion?
11. What is the occupation of your parents?
12. What kind of an education do you have?
13. What is your profession or occupational specialty?
14. Where were you last employed? Until when and in what position?
15. What is your home address?
16. Are you married or single? Do you have any children?
17. To what party do or did the members of your family belong?
18. Are any political refugees or emigrants among your friends or relatives or were any of them persecuted or punished for political reasons?
19. Who are they and where are they?
20. When did you enter the Armed Forces? (As a volunteer or draftee?)
21. Did you take part in the First World War?
22. On which fronts have you fought since 1939?
23. When did you arrive at the Russian Front?
24. Do you have any awards or decorations? When did you win them and for what?
25. Where, when, and under what circumstances were you captured? (Or did you desert?)

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II. Condition of the German Armed Forces (Wehrmacht)

A. The Soldier's Life

1. How well-fed are the German soldiers? (especially lately)
2. How is the equipment in your unit?
3. What are the health conditions?
4. Is medical care available?
5. Did you have any days of rest, and did you get enough sleep?
6. As a soldier, on what did you spend most of your money?
7. What do you know about the operations of [military] censorship?
8. How often did you receive mail from home?
9. What do you know about the censorship?
10. Does the soldier at the front have any opportunity for sexual intercourse?
11. What is the average age of the soldiers in your organization?
12. What are some of the topics of conversation among the soldiers?

B. Indoctrination of the Soldiers

1. Did you have political discussions, lectures, or hours of instruction in your unit?
2. What were the topics?
3. Who conducts such lectures or courses?
4. Does your organization have a library? What kinds of books does it have?
5. Do you receive "circular letters" from Germany? From whom, how often, and what do they contain?
6. Did you receive newspapers from Germany?
7. Did you receive military periodicals and political pamphlets? What did they deal with?

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8. Were you informed about the military situation at the front?  
What was the latest report?
9. Which front newspapers published by the Wehrmacht for German soldiers did you read?
10. What part do the chaplains play in furnishing the troops with spiritual guidance?
11. How does the German radio propaganda operate among the Armed Forces? What does it consist of?
12. Have you seen any films lately? Which ones? Are there any movies at the front?
13. What do you know about the activities of the propaganda companies?

C. Relations with Superiors

1. From which strata of the population do the officers come?
2. How do the officers treat their subordinates?
3. How do the officers react to the grievances and complaints of the soldiers?
4. Do officers require enlisted men to perform personal services?
5. Do you know of any cases of physical mistreatment or shootings perpetrated by officers, or do you know of officers susceptible to bribery?
6. Do officers attempt to win over individual soldiers by extending favors?
7. Describe some characteristic aspects of an officer's everyday life.

D. Relations of the Soldiers to Each Other

1. Do you know of any cases of denunciation?
2. Are there overly ambitious men ["eager beavers"] among the troops?
3. How do the Austrians and Germans get along with each other?
4. How are the relations between the soldiers and the noncommissioned officers?

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5. How do regular army men and reservists get along with each other?
6. How do the older men and the younger men get along with each other?
7. How are relations between members of the various branches of the service?

E. Military Questions

1. What do you know about the military qualifications and professional skill of your officers and noncommissioned officers?
2. What do you know about German losses of men and materiel at the front?
3. How often and in what manner has your organization received replacements?
4. Did your unit have much opportunity for rest [and recuperation]? How often has it been reorganized?
5. What do the men in your unit say about the partisans? What damage have the latter inflicted?

F. Discipline

1. Do you know of any violations of discipline?
2. Does it happen that the orders from officers are not carried out?
3. Did any soldiers refuse to enter combat?
4. What was the cause of such incidents?
5. What were the consequences?
6. Mention a few typical courts [martial] sentences or penalties.
7. Do you know of any cases of desertion, malingering, self-mutilation, or suicide? (Furnish exact data)

G. Security Organizations [Operating]  
Within the Wehrmacht

1. What do you know about the operating procedure of the Gestapo in the Wehrmacht?

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2. What role does the military police play and what functions does it perform?
3. How do the military courts in the field and in the zone of interior operate?
4. What is the role of the SS and SA in the Wehrmacht?
5. How high is the percentage of national-socialists in the Wehrmacht?
6. What role do they play?
7. What is the attitude of the soldiers toward the Gestapo, SA, and SS?

III. Conditions in the Zone of Interior

A. The Financial Condition of the Prisoner Prior to Induction into the Wehrmacht and the Condition of his Family Prior to the War:

[Questions for] Workers:

1. Where were you last employed?
2. How long have you been working?
3. How long was your working day?
4. In which respects is the worker protected by law?
5. How much was your weekly wage?
6. How much were the weekly deductions, taxes, fines, etc.?
7. What were your principal expenses, and what percentage of your wages did they constitute?
8. Did you have a savings account? If so, what happened to it?
9. How was your housing situation, and how much rent did you pay?
10. How high were your expenses in case of sickness?
11. How much did you spend for food?
12. How much did you spend on the education of your child(ren)?
13. What grievances and complaints do the workers have?

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Farmers:

14. How large is your farm?
15. How much and what kind of cattle do you have?
16. How high are the taxes and other assessments?
17. What did your income and expenses consist of?
18. Did you receive any credit? How much and from whom?
19. What grievances and complaints do the farmers have?
20. What do you think of the Farm Succession Law [Erbhofgesetz]?  
::
21. What do you think of the so-called "Farmers' Leaders"  
[Bauernfuehrer]?

B. The Family under Wartime Conditions

1. How long is the work day for members of your family at present?
2. How high are the wages? How high are deductions and taxes?
3. How is the supply of food and consumer goods?
4. How does the increased cost of living manifest itself?
5. Can all merchandize be bought on the open market?
6. Did you receive any small packages from home? Did you send any small packages? What were their contents?
7. Are there any transportation difficulties?
8. What have you heard about air raid victims and destruction caused by air raids?
9. Have the Government or individual organizations taken measures to render aid?

C. The Political Situation

1. Are there any conflicts between workers and managers in the plants?
2. How are they caused and how are they resolved?

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3. Do you know of any clashes between workers and officials, police, SS, or SA?
4. What were the reasons?
5. What can you tell us about local and district "leaders" of the NSDAP, SA, and SS, chiefs of police, Gestapo [personnel], mayors, etc., and about their past?
6. How are relations between them and the people?
7. Do you know of any people who are dissatisfied with conditions?
8. What do you know about the activities of the anti-Hitler forces at home and in the armed forces?
9. In your opinion, why are people dissatisfied?
10. How do suppression of the Church and religious persecution manifest themselves?
11. What do you think of the war against Russia? Do your friends think the same way?
12. What do you think of the Goebbels propaganda and the reports of the Armed Forces High Command?

IV. Political Attitude and Convictions of the Prisoner

1. How do you feel about the Hitler regime, the national-socialist "leaders," and the so-called "German Socialism"?
2. What do you think of the occupation of a number of European countries by the German Wehrmacht, of the policy of spoilation and brute force, and of the propaganda extolling hatred of other humans and class supremacy?
3. When, where, and from whom did you receive the news about the outbreak of the war against Russia? How do you feel about the war against Russia? What do you think of "Hitler's allies"?
4. When did you cross the Russian border? What was the route of advance? In which battles in Russia have you participated? How did the Russian population conduct itself toward the German troops? How was the conduct of the German troops toward the [Russian] population? What cases of cruelties committed by German officers and enlisted men against Red Army soldiers and commanders and against the local population are known to you? (Specify the locality). Do you know of any instances in which individuals

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among the population aided the German troops? How is civil government organized in the temporarily occupied areas? Mention names and functions [of officials] and give a brief personal description of the "interpreters" with the German headquarters. What do you know about the treatment of captured members of the Red Army?

5. What is your attitude toward the Russian people and the Soviet regime?
6. What do you think of the combat efficiency of the Red Army and the partisan movement?

What do you know about Bolshevism, the Bolsheviks, and the commissars?

Along which lines were you politically active prior to your induction and during your military service? Have you been punished for such activities?

V. Attitude toward Soviet Propaganda

1. Do German soldiers read the Russian leaflets and newspapers?
2. What is the German soldiers' opinion of Russian leaflets and radio broadcasts?
3. Which questions come to mind when the German soldiers read the Russian leaflets or listen to Moscow radio broadcasts?
4. What is the main reason for the German soldiers' reluctance to surrender?
5. What, in your opinion, should we write about primarily in our leaflets for the German soldiers?
6. On which subjects would the German soldiers like to receive more specific information?

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APPENDIX IV\*

SHORT TRAINING COURSE FOR RED ARMY  
INTERROGATORS IN THE FIELD

[Note: This appendix consists of a German prisoner-of-war interrogation report. Interrogation was made by 1st Lt. Sakharov, translation from Russian by 1st Lt. von Velville.]

Army High Command  
Army General Staff  
Branch Foreign Armies East (IIIA)

Hq., 11 August 1944

Prisoner of War Interrogation  
of

Rank: Captain  
Name: Pupikin, Vladimir Dmitrovich  
Military Position: CO Recon Bn  
Last Unit: 159th Infantry Division, XXXXV Infantry Corps,  
Fifth Army, Western Front  
Captured: 19 July 1944 At: Kauen  
Born: 15 June 1914 At: Stalingrad area  
Nationality: Russian Civilian Occupation: Electrician  
Bookkeeper

Subject: Instructions for the Interrogation of Prisoners of War  
by Intelligence or Reconnaissance Officers of the Red Army

Captain Pupikin (a prisoner of war) attended a three-day course for reconnaissance officers in the vicinity of Smolensk from 9 to 12 June 1944. One lecture hour was scheduled for prisoner-of-war interrogation procedure. In addition, the course included a demonstration interrogation accompanied by a lecture.

\*Reference: Interrogation Rpt, Directives for the Interrogation of PW's by Reconnaissance Officers of the Red Army, dtd 11 Aug 44, in German PW Affairs Files, Foreign Armies East.

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The lecture was given by the Chief of the Research Branch of the Intelligence Directorate for the Western Front. The interrogation of the prisoner lasted about fifteen minutes. A blindfolded prisoner of war was led into the lecture room. All documents on his person were removed and the interrogation began. The prisoner had obviously been procured from a prisoner-of-war camp. The answers he gave to questions were previously prepared statements. An intelligence officer carried out the interrogation. The interpreter translated literally without any revisions.

The lecturer instructed the students in the following manner as to the execution of the interrogation:

1. The interrogating officer will put his questions directly to the prisoner of war and not to the interpreter.
2. Prior to the interrogation, the interrogating officer has to familiarize himself with the statements of other prisoners from the same sector of the front. If possible, he is to have the relevant interrogation reports and a map of the pertinent sector before him.
3. A questionnaire containing the items in which higher headquarters is interested must be available.
4. No record is to be kept during the interrogation itself. Only short notes may be made. The record is to be written after the interrogation and not in the presence of the prisoner.
5. Prior to the interrogation proper, the veracity of the prisoner's statements is to be ascertained. This is best done in the following manner: The prisoner is first asked the first and last names of the members of his squad and platoon. After a lapse of a period of time, these questions are repeated. If the statements are identical, it may be assumed that the prisoner is telling the truth.
6. The prisoner is to eat prior to the interrogation and is to be treated to brandy and cigarettes.
7. The interrogation is to be conducted in a polite manner.
8. The prisoner is to gain the impression that the information about his unit, which is expected from him, is already known and was previously ascertained from statements by other prisoners of war.
9. If the prisoner refuses to answer, the interrogation is to be stopped. Later, the interrogation will be started anew by another person who will deal with the prisoner in accordance with the latter's psychological characteristics. In the course of this interrogation the prisoner may also be tricked.

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10. If the prisoner in question is healthy, he will be drawn out by questions from other, previously captured prisoners, who have been recruited as agents. The latter will use a comradely and cordial approach in starting conversations with the prisoner. Another method to be employed is the planting of an intelligence officer, who has command of the German language, in a cell next to that of the prisoner. Through an opening in the wall, he will establish contact with the prisoner. He will act as if he himself has just been captured and will seek to obtain information through friendly conversation.

11. In especially important cases (only in interrogations at the intelligence directorate [Verwaltung fuer Feindaufklaerung]) narcosis will be used.

12. Intelligence officers or women interpreters, disguised as doctors, nurses, or nurses aides, will be employed for the "care" of sick and wounded prisoners. This "medical personnel" will seek to win the confidence of prisoners through special attention, care, sympathy, and presents. Conversations will be started about home, relatives, the weather, sickness, et cetera. Powdered sugar and drops of cherry juice will be given as "medicine." Step by step, treatment of the prisoner will continue with great caution until he reveals the desired information.

13. It is recommended that immediately after capture soldiers be interrogated by regimental and divisional intelligence officers on the spot; that is, as far forward as the main line of resistance or the trenches.

14. During interrogation, the regimental, divisional, corps, and army intelligence officers are to place emphasis on the following questions:

- a. Training of the prisoner;
- b. Strength and combat effectiveness of his unit;
- c. Reserves;
- d. Artillery;
- e. Tanks;
- f. Engineer equipment;
- g. Equipment for chemical warfare;
- h. Medical and veterinary facilities;
- i. Morale and political attitude of the troops;
- j. The mission of the unit.

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## APPENDIX V\*

## Military Institute of Foreign Languages

[Note: Portions of the original report have been paraphrased or summarized. Names of Soviet officers and officials have been omitted.]

This report contains information on the Military Institute of Foreign Languages in Moscow. It was obtained from a Soviet Officer deserter who attended the institute from January 1946 to July 1948. . . .

After ten years of schooling, Source was graduated from middle school in the spring of 1945. In August 1945, he took a special course in the Czech language at the Military Institute of Foreign Languages and was graduated with high honors in January 1946. Most of the graduates were sent to various military units, but Source's teacher was able to obtain for him an appointment to a regular course at the Institute. Source passed a few examinations and was accepted into the second semester of the second year of the First Faculty, joining a class which had entered the Institute in the fall of 1944. He continued to specialize in the Czech language.

Source has given information on the following questions:

1. What Organization controls and directs the Institute?

The institute is under the Ministry of the Armed Forces (MVS).

2. What is the relation of the Institute with the MGB and other agencies?

In some exceptional cases, members of the MGB attend the Institute. Normally, however, MGB personnel attend the MGB's own language schools. Some MVD officers, principally from border units, attend the school. Institute graduates may go to the MGB, the Soviet Council of Ministers, certain ministries, and the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party.

3. What is the over-all organization of the Institute?

\*Reference: USFA Report No. R-506-49, 18 Oct 49, Sub: (Soviet) Military Institute of Foreign Languages, (S).

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Under the Commanding Officer and his Administrative Staff, the Institute is divided into four Faculties. Each Faculty gives a different kind of general course, with individual variations in each student's course according to the language he is studying. (Comment: So far as can be gathered from Source's description, a Faculty is similar in nature to a College of an American university.) Each Faculty has an administrative staff. The teaching staff for all four Faculties is divided into 15 Departments according to the subjects taught.

4. Give the Command and Administrative Staff of the Institute.

(Note: Names omitted here.)

Chief of the Institute  
Deputy Chief for Educational and Scientific Matters  
Chief of Educational Department  
Chief of Political Department  
Chief of the Personnel Department  
Chief of the Administrative Department

5. Give the Organization, Functions, and Personnel of the four Faculties.

a. The First Faculty supervises the courses in all European languages. Students in this Faculty are trained to become qualified translators and interpreters.

Chief of the Faculty -- Colonel  
Assistant for Political Matters -- Lt. Colonel  
Assistant for Educational Matters -- Captain  
Chiefs of Courses -- Colonels and Lt. Colonels

b. The Second Faculty is similar in curriculum to the First except that its students specialize in Oriental languages. Source does not know the staff. . . .

c. The Third Faculty is the School of the Main Political Administration /Directorate/ of the Armed Forces of the USSR (GPR VS SSSR). It trains officers as political workers, speaking foreign languages, to work as Communist agitators and propagandists. Source does not know the staff. . . .

d. The Fourth Faculty trains personnel to teach English, German, and French at the various military schools and academies. Chief of this Faculty is a Colonel. . . . Assistant -- Lt. Colonel.

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6. Give the Various Departments of the Teaching Staff and their Personnel.

(Note: Source was able to name only a part of the personnel. All names are eliminated here.)

- a. Marxism-Leninism Department  
Chief: Colonel; Five Instructors: Lt. Colonels
- b. Political Economy Department  
Chief and three instructors
- c. English Language Department  
Chief and four instructors
- d. French Language Department  
Chief and two instructors
- e. Romance Languages Department
- f. Slavic Languages Department
- g. Hungarian and Finnish Languages Department
- h. Oriental Languages Department
- i. Russian Languages and Language Study Methods Department
- j. Military Translation Department
- k. Military Tactics and Operations Department
- l. Orientation Department
- m. General and National Literatures Department
- n. Pedagogical Department

7. What are the two Miscellaneous Courses referred to in No. 3?

(Note: No. 3 contains no reference to "miscellaneous courses," an omission which may have been made when the original report was translated and edited.)

a. There is a special officers' course at which selected officers from various branches of the Armed Forces study several subjects. The English language is the main subject. Others are Marxism, the Russian language, Tactics, and the Armed Forces of the United States and Great Britain.

b. A correspondence course in foreign languages is given to certain officers on duty elsewhere. . . .

8. How long do the Various Courses Last?

At the time Source was a student at the Institute, the courses in the First, Third, and Fourth Faculties lasted four years. The course of the Second Faculty lasted five years. Beginning in the fall of 1949, the courses of the First and Fourth Faculties will be lengthened to five years. There will be no graduating classes from these courses in 1950. The special "Officers' Course" lasts two years.

9. How are the school years divided?

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Each school year is divided into two semesters. One semester begins in August and ends in December with mid-year examinations, followed by a vacation of about ten days. The second semester begins in February and ends in early summer with yearly examinations. Students then undergo a period of training in a military camp or other practical work, followed by a one month leave.

10. How are students for the Institute selected?

At the time Source was a student, members of the Armed Forces as well as civilians were accepted by the Institute. Source expects that in the future, only military personnel will be accepted. Military personnel have to go through several steps before acceptance. First, officers from the Institute visit all Military Districts (and Fronts) and select possible candidates from records kept at headquarters. These candidates then take an examination in the Russian language. Those passing this test go to the Institute for more detailed examinations. Successful candidates must pass tests in the Russian Language and Literature (corresponding to ten years' schooling), Geography, and History of the USSR. . . . Sometimes examinations in a foreign language and in current events.

Students for the Third Faculty are selected only by the Main Political Administration of the Armed Forces.

11. How many students are at the Institute?

At the time Source was a student there, the Institute had between 2,000 and 2,500 students in attendance. Source's class had between 180 and 200 students, but classes in the various Faculties differ in size. The Fourth Faculty had the fewest students. About 100 English-speaking students are graduated each year.

12. What percentage of each class fails to graduate? What reasons?

Between ten and fifteen per cent of each class fails to graduate, the majority for scholastic deficiencies. On several occasions, students were ordered to other military assignments before completing their courses, even though they had not failed their course.

13. How efficient is the teaching of the Institute?

The teaching is partly good and partly bad. Source heard that ---, the English teacher, was very good and his wife was poor. Some of the graduates speak the language they studied very well. Others speak surprisingly badly. . . . He believes that the average students of English speak well and fluently, but with an accent, and could not pass as Americans or Englishmen.

14. How and where are graduates assigned?

Graduates of the First and Second Faculties may be assigned to positions with any branch of the Armed Forces; with one of several ministries, including the MGB, or with the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party. Source knows that graduates have been assigned to such various positions as the staff of a tank division; the staff of the Foreign Relations Department of the Ministry of Armed Forces; the staff of a Military District Command; MGB service in the United States and Mexico; with Armed Forces intelligence units in Germany and Austria; with military attache staffs; and with repatriation missions in Western Europe. Graduates assigned to the Soviet Navy may serve aboard ships or with naval headquarters.

The various agencies needing graduates from the Institute come to the Institute late in the school year (April, in Source's cast) to conduct interviews with fourth-year students who are not already earmarked for assignment. At the end of the term, graduates receive orders from the General Staff giving their assignments. Source received orders to report to the Personnel Administration of the GRU; there he was given his specific assignment.

Graduates of the Third Faculty are given their assignments by the Main Political Administration [Directorate] of the Armed Forces. Graduates of the Fourth Faculty are theoretically to be assigned to teaching languages in various Armed Forces schools. In practice, however, many end up in non-teaching positions. For example, eight female graduates of this Faculty are attached to the Soviet Element of the Allied Commission for Austria.

15. Are any intelligence courses given at the Institute?

No actual intelligence courses are given at the Institute. Some of the courses are indirectly helpful in the training of an intelligence officer. Source states that during the war Genleut Bijazi, the Commanding Officer of the Institute, attempted to organize several courses in addition to the ones now existing. Of these, the Seventh Faculty was a special intelligence course. This experiment did not succeed, and after a few months, the Institute reverted to the original four Faculties.

16. Do military intelligence officers, other than those slated to be interpreters, attend the Institute?

No. They study languages in other schools.

17. Do graduates who have been earmarked for assignment with Military Intelligence receive any intelligence training?

No. They go directly to their assignments without further training.



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18. Is the commanding officer of the Institute a military intelligence officer? Is the chief of the First Faculty?

Yes. In both cases.

19. What are the State examinations given to Institute students? How many of them are there?

At the end of their last year, students at the Institute must pass two or three State examinations, depending upon the Faculty which they have attended. These examinations cover the student's entire course, First Faculty students must pass examinations in their main language and in Marxism-Leninism. Second Faculty students take examinations in two languages . . . as well as in Marxism-Leninism. Students in the Fourth Faculty take examinations in Pedagogics, in a foreign language, and in Marxism-Leninism.

20. What are the students' military status?

All students at the Institute receive uniforms immediately upon acceptance, but they hold the rank only of "special student" (slushatel) until they pass their second year. They are then commissioned Junior Lieutenants. Graduates receive the rank of Lieutenant.

21. What pay do students receive?

Students receive 300 rubles a month during the first year and 450 rubles during the second. During the third year, they receive the pay of Junior Lieutenants holding the job of squad leader or section leader -- 400 rubles monthly base pay and 650 rubles for special job pay. Fourth year students receive 400 rubles base pay and the 750 rubles special job pay to which an assistant company commander is entitled. Graduate Lieutenants receive 500 rubles base pay plus the special pay of the position to which they are assigned. Source received 1,150 rubles special pay as an interpreter who had graduated from the Institute (non-Institute translators receive less special pay). Military personnel entering the Institute continue to receive the pay of their last assignment if that is higher than they would receive at the Institute.

22. What recreational facilities are available at the Institute?

Club and recreation rooms . . . various sports . . . drama circle, band. . . .

23. What subjects did students of the First Faculty study during Source's attendance at the Institute?

First Year -- First Semester:

1. Foreign Language (Phonetics, Grammar); 2. Marxism-Leninism; 3. Military Topography; 4. Literature of Ancient Greece and Rome; 5. Contemporary Russian Literary Language; 6. Orientation -- Global Political Geography (general historical-geographical review of the world, except the USSR); 7. Introduction to Language Study (Linguistics); 8. Stalin's Speeches and Orders dealing with the "Great Fatherland War" (This was a wartime study only; it is now combined with Marxism-Leninism.)

Second Semester:

1. Foreign Language; 2. Marxism-Leninism; 3. Tactics (Use of personal weapons, drill regulations, infantry squads and sections in attack and defense); 4. Literature of the Middle Ages; 5. Contemporary Russian Literary Language; 6. Orientation - Physical and Economic Geography of the World except USSR; 7. Introduction to Language Study. Practical Training: After first year examinations, the students attend a military training camp for practical training in the theory learned in the Military Topography and Tactics courses.

Second Year -- Third Semester:

1, 2, and 5. Same as second semester: 3. Tactics - Military History up to the Civil War in Russia (1918-1922); 4. Literature of the 18th Century; 6. Orientation - History of the student's special country. . . .

Fourth Semester:

1. Same (including Military Translation); 2. Same; 3. Tactics (Principles of Warfare: infantry company and battalion in combat, both offensive and defensive); 4. Literature of the 19th Century; 5. Orientation (same as before, continued). Practical Training: Students after the Second Year again attend a Military Training Camp for continued infantry drill and an examination in Tactics.

Third Year -- Fifth Semester:

1. Foreign Language; 2. Same (at present Marxism-Leninism is not taught after second year); 3. . . .

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Political Economy; 4.. Literature of the 20th Century;  
5. Orientation - Political and Governmental of the  
student's special country; 6. Tactics (study of the  
military forces of the United States and Great Britain);  
7. Second Foreign Language.

**Sixth Semester:**

1, 2, and 3. Same as above; 4. Auxiliary Theory (in  
Source's case, study of old Slavic and old Czech language  
theory); 5. Orientation - Literature of student's special  
country; 6. Second Foreign Language.

Practical Training: After the 3d year, students are  
placed in the summer in a special job to obtain practical  
training in the use of their foreign language. Source  
spent a month with MVD Border Guard troops on the Slovak-  
USSR border. He actually did this after his Second Year.  
. . . case not normal.

**Fourth Year -- Seventh Semester:**

1. Foreign Language (with emphasis on style), a. Trans-  
lation from Language into Russian, b. Translation from  
Russian into Language; 2. Same; 3. Same; 4. Orientation-  
Geography of the United States and Great Britain; 5.  
Second Foreign Language.

After finishing and passing the fourth year examinations, students  
are given about one month to prepare for the State examinations. After  
passing these, the students receive their diplomas and await further  
assignment.

24. (Names of fellow students and present assignments. Deleted  
from this appendix.)

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APPENDIX VI

DOCUMENTARY EXCERPTS:  
SOVIET METHODS OF INTERROGATION

[Note: These short excerpts from various documents will serve to illustrate methods of interrogation practiced by Soviet interrogators. The collection is by no means comprehensive nor is it designed to reveal a specific pattern of Soviet behavior; these examples are merely representative of the larger body of source materials upon which this study is based.]

Part One of this appendix consists, for the most part, of case histories of prisoner-of-war interrogation. Part Two presents examples of methods of interrogating citizens of the Soviet Union and its satellite states.]

PART ONE  
Item 1\*

[Note: The source of this report was Major M. P. Ossnovich, Russian PW, formerly intelligence officer on the staff of the 20th Guards Cavalry Division (Red Army).]

Treatment of Prisoners:

Unless prisoners offer stubborn resistance at the time of capture, their lives are spared, no matter whether they are officers or enlisted men. Officers are sent to army headquarters after a brief interrogation at division. From army, they are shipped to assembly camps. Enlisted men, unless they can reveal important information, are shipped directly to the assembly camps after their interrogation at division. German prisoners of war are allegedly not used in industry and agriculture because of the danger of

\*Source: Interrogation report, dtd 28 Dec 42, in G-2 file of 78th Assault Division, I C. Anlage Zum Kriegstagebuch, Gefangenen - Vernehmungen, 12 VIII. -28.XII.1942.

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sabotage. Subject claims ignorance of deliberate shootings of prisoners, although he was impressed with German experiences to the contrary. [Note: The need for prisoners as laborers quickly overcame Soviet fears regarding sabotage.]

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After the first interrogation comes the second one. . . . Treatment becomes more and more severe. . . . Threats are uttered such as, "We shall beat the living daylights out of you," or "We shall make you dance the fascist trot." This means that the victim, dressed in a fur coat, is forced to double-time for hours in a very hot room. . . .

If the prisoner refuses to comply, he is placed into confinement. . . . The place of confinement. . . is a dark stone dungeon, furnished solely with a bench of stone or iron. The floor is covered with sharp-edged stones. The victim, clad only in swimming trunks, is thrown into this room. If he stands, the soles of his feet hurt, and the bench is too cold to permit sitting down. The only way he can relieve himself is on the floor, and after a few days the air becomes so foul that breathing it becomes almost intolerable. . . .

The first stage of interrogation was conducted in the following manner: I had to sit down on a stool. Sitting at rigid attention with the arms hanging down, I spent 108 hours maintaining this posture. I collapsed twice, and the subsequent breaks are included in the above period. The guard personnel saw to it that I neither slept nor moved. (According to NKVD regulations, this kind of torture is permissible up to 180 hours.) After I had spent two days in this position, I felt terrible pains in the abdominal region, and

\*Source: "Bolshevist Torture Methods" and "Interrogation Methods in the USSR" in Anti-Komintern File, "der Rote Terror II" (Red Terror II), EAP 116/58.

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in particular in the region of the kidneys: my hands and feet swelled considerably. . . . After 103 hours, I was taken back to the prison more dead than alive. Walking was out of the question. My feed had swollen out of shape. Each step, each movement, caused unbelievable pain.

I enjoyed a respite of five days. Then the procedure of sitting on the stool started anew. This time, only about half of the stool was to be used. The feet had to be stretched out. I was tortured in this manner over a period of 62 hours and was then permitted to recuperate for three days.

On the night of the fourth day . . . began the second stage of interrogation. I was permitted to sit down but only in such a manner that my coccy rested on a corner of the stool. My hands and feet were to be stretched out. After only a few minutes, I felt excruciating pains in the spinal column. These pains increased immeasurably since I was positively prohibited from moving. After approximately half an hour, the hands and feet showed the first symptoms of cramp. By mustering every ounce of energy, I sat in this position for two hours and forty minutes. Then I was returned to the cell where I again spent a month.

After that, interrogations started again. At this point, the interrogator tried to elicit the statements he wanted by subjecting me to sunlamp treatments (one lamp shone on the right and another on the left side of my head). After approximately two and a half hours, the ability to think is completely arrested. When this, too, was of no avail . . . my hands were tied behind my back. My hands were

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slowly raised by means of a simple pulley until I could stand only on the tips of my toes. I was forced to remain in this position for over an hour. Thereafter, I enjoyed another respite of three weeks.

I was subsequently subjected to the third stage of interrogation, the so-called "conveyor interrogation" (a Russian term meaning "conveyor belt" interrogation, that is, by several interrogators). It was conducted in the presence of four interrogators. I was placed on a stool adjacent to a wall. I was faced by three interrogators, one sitting in front of me and the others on either side. I was asked whether I had finally thought over the points of the indictment and would affix my signature. Since my answer was "no," the interrogator reacted to it with the method of indoctrination which he considered appropriate. The interrogator sitting in front of me shoved my forehead in such a manner that the back of my head hit the wall. Then the interrogator who sat on my right made my head veer to the left by hitting its right side. The interrogator sitting on my left followed his example, so that they carried on a veritable handball game with my head. Including interruptions, during which I was confronted with the same questions time and again, this game lasted for approximately one hour. As late as a week after this treatment, I was, understandable enough, in no condition to muster one coherent thought. In this manner, I was forced to sign confessions which did not contain one word of truth and which, in their entirety, did not correspond to the facts.

I have personally experienced the interrogation methods cited  
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above in the course of my one-year pre-trial confinement. At the same time, I should like to state that they constitute only part of the various interrogation methods practiced by the NKVD. I was told, for instance, by fellow prisoners that they had been whipped with steel scourges. Others were confined in the so-called "moist dungeon."

By means of these methods of extortion, the NKVD is undoubtedly in a position to obtain any confession it desires.

M. L. Engineer

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Note: The source of this report was Pvt Alexei Lewin, Russian (Don Cossack) PW, formerly of the 193d Special Penal Company of the 127th Infantry Division (Red Army)./

Interrogation Methods

. . . In order to force a prisoner to give information, there is a method of making the prisoner sit for days "at attention," that is, without any sleep. The prisoner is closely guarded and is prodded as soon as he falls asleep. Another method is to make the prisoner stand for five days until his legs are so swollen as to become barrel-shaped and the blood springs from the veins. Still another method calls for torturing the prisoner with electricity. Electrical contacts are strapped to the prisoner's throat and stomach and he is exposed to a current up to three minutes. A doctor checks on how much current the prisoner can stand. This process involving electric current is repeated after a few minutes and thereafter again and again. Other methods in Russian jails involve resorting to starvation and rubber truncheons. The prisoner has experienced these methods himself and has seen his comrades subjected to them.

\*Source: Interrogation Report, dtd 19 Jul 44, in G-2 file of XXXXVII Panzer Corps, July 44.

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Item 4\*Treatment, evacuation, and present location of German PW's

Nearly all prisoners of war were interrogated briefly at regimental headquarters and then handed over to the Special Sections of the NKVD [OO NKVD]. This unit confined them in various prisons . . . . Some prisoners were treated humanely; others in a barbarian manner with devices customary in the NKVD: uninterrupted interrogation by day and night, poor food, crowded-living in small cells without sufficient air and sleep, frequent compulsion to testify accompanied by threats with firearms. . . . [A subsequent passage (Section III) cites several specific instances of the shooting of German prisoners.]

\*Source: Report on the "Fate of German and Romanian Prisoners of War in Sevastopol," dtd 6 Jul 42, in G-2 file of Eleventh Army, Anlagenband 13 zum Taetigkeitsbericht, Ic/AO, Behandlung deutscher Kgf. 6.VII.-2.VIII.1942. This is a consolidated report compiled by the 647th Secret Field Police Detachment and is based on the statements of eighty Russian prisoners.

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Note: The source of this report was Lt. Admirani Shalamberidse, Russian (Georgian) deserter, formerly a member of Section 7 of the Political Directorate of Army Group Crimea.

All prisoners, after a short interrogation at division level are turned over to the intelligence section [RU] of the army group (front). The [capturing] troops are not permitted to decide the fate of the prisoners and therefore do not know about the prisoners' lot [subsequent to evacuation]. Interrogation at the intelligence section (Razvedyvatelni Otdel) dealt with questions of a military nature, such as organization [of enemy units], enemy intentions, strength, etc.. Subsequently, prisoners were turned over to Section 7 of the Political Administration. Here, they were interrogated on the political attitude and the morale of the enemy troops and questioned for purposes of obtaining material for leaflets. They were also interrogated on the effect of leaflets which had been dropped [by the Russians] on enemy troops.

After the arrival of Mechlis [Army Commissar, 1st Grade, with the Political Directorate of Army Group Crimea], almost all prisoners were shot after interrogation.

\*Source: Interrogation Report, dtd 21 May 42, in G-2 file of Eleventh Army, Eigene Gefangenen-Vernehmungen, Ic/AO, 10.XI.1941 - 10.X.1942.

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Many prisoners who refused to give information when interrogated by the intelligence section were shot. PW [source of this report] does not know how the interrogation by the intelligence section was conducted.

During the interrogation by Section 7 of the Political Directorate, prisoners were not treated badly. When a member of Group Mechlis, such as Brigade Commissar Vesselov or Senior Battalion Commissar Samoylov, was present during an interrogation, the prisoners were abused and threatened if they did not testify as desired by the commissar; however, they were not beaten. Those prisoners who showed considerable firmness or those whose testimony was very advantageous to the Soviets, were turned over to Mechlis personally for purposes of interrogation. After the interrogation was terminated, the prisoners were generally turned over to the headquarters guard and shot the following morning by the headquarters commandant of the Army Group, Captain Zitko (formerly a Besprizorny [Russian term for outlaw homeless waifs.]), who was a sadist. The execution took place at the Leninskoye cemetery.

During the time that headquarters was located in Leninskoye, approximately sixty German prisoners were received. Forty of these are definitely known to have been shot. The deserter [source] does not know the fate of the remaining twenty. He assumes, however, that approximately ten more prisoners were shot and that only the remaining ten were evacuated to Kerch and on to Navorossiysk.

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Item 6 \*

During a Russian breakthrough on 27 March 1942, I was captured by the Russians together with twenty-four men, including our company commander (1st Lt. Faehrmann), a master sergeant, and three sergeants. At the time of capture, I was stripped of all belongings, among them a sum of 475 reichs marks. At the prisoner collecting point to which I was taken, I joined several soldiers from other companies of the battalion. From there, we were taken to a headquarters farther to the rear. There we were interrogated individually by a Jewish commissar who spoke only broken German.

We were housed in two steam bathhouses (saunas). We were separated, for the time being, from Lt. Faehrmann. The first meal we received on the day of our capture was at 10 o'clock in the evening. The meal consisted of potato soup with a little meat and a piece of bread.

When all prisoners had been assembled in one house, a leaflet composed by a Russian propagandist was handed to us. All prisoners were required to sign this leaflet. A refusal would

\*Source: Report on the Enemy Situation, dtd 4 April, in G-2 File of XXVII Corps, Kappe III, Anlage zum Taetigkeitsberichte, Ic, Feindnachrichtenblaetter, 21.XI. 1941 - 31.XII. 1942. Annex 3 to this report comprises a deposition, dated 31 March 1942, by Cpl. Wilhelm Kade about his experiences in Russian captivity and it is from this annex that the above passages were taken.

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have been useless, because in this event we would have been shot. The leaflet stated something about good rations and treatment in Russian captivity and something to the effect that German prisoners would not be mistreated and that our lieutenant had not been shot. When I was taken to the commissar to be interrogated, he offered me tobacco to roll a cigarette and asked me to come close to the stove where it was warm. In the room, in addition to the interrogating commissar, were two uniformed girls (students) and a woman in civilian attire. They were telephone operators and a secretary, respectively. One of them rolled a cigarette for me from the proffered tobacco since I was unable to do it. Before the interrogation began, I told the commissar that I was hungry whereupon he directed one of the girls to hand me a few slices of bread with butter and sausage from his trunk.

The questions which the commissar put to me during the first interrogation dealt only with personal data and information relative to members of my family. During the second interrogation, which took place at night, I was asked about the following:

1. The food situation.
2. The morale of the troops.
3. Relationship between officers and enlisted men.

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In reply, I furnished the following information: \*

Re 1. Good

Re 2. The morale of the German people and of the Wehrmacht is good. The people and the Wehrmacht have faith in their Fuehrer.

Re 3. I pictured the relationship with our company commander and termed it good.

The question was put to me whether I would be willing to return to the German lines in order to ascertain the attitude of the troops and, in appropriate cases, persuade soldiers to desert. In the event I accepted this offer, I was to proceed along the following lines: Initially, I was to conceal my PW status and determine the attitude of the soldiers to be approached. Only then was I to persuade dissatisfied elements to desert. In doing so, I was to depict conditions I had experienced in Russian captivity. I asked for time to ponder a reply to this request. [The subject had an opportunity to consult with his company commander who advised him to pretend acceptance so that he could notify relatives of the fate of fellow prisoners and inform his division about enemy intentions.]

When I was led before the commissar and replied in the

\*This is an excerpt from a deposition of a German enlisted man who had returned to the German lines after capture by the Russians. It is doubtful that he is telling the whole truth in this instance, since he was entrusted with a mission to secure deserters by the Russians.

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affirmative to his question about my willingness to undertake the mission, I had to sign a certificate. In addition to an outline of my mission, this certificate contained a threatening statement to the effect that my parents would be shot upon the successful conclusion of the war by the Russians should I fail to return from this mission. If I executed my mission successfully, I was to receive preference with regard to quarters, treatment, and work. After I had signed the certificate, the commissar asked me whether I wanted to have all of my money back. I replied that I would leave this to his judgment.

[In the evening of the day after his capture, the subject was taken by sled to the rear. In one village which he passed he saw a large concentration of partisans and soldiers. During the final leg of his trip, he was wrapped in a shelter half to prevent him from identifying his surroundings. Arriving at his destination, the subject was led before a Russian captain who briefed him on his mission with the help of a map. The captain pointed out the location of the prisoner's battalion headquarters and directed him to return within ten to fourteen days. After the briefing, subject received his paybook and 75 reichs marks and was given a meal. Subsequently, he was returned by sled to the front and released close to the German lines.]

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Item 7\*

Treatment of German Prisoners of War

[Note: The source of the first cited report is Major Vassiliy Sudarev, Russian PW, formerly a member of the 1027th Infantry Regiment of the 198th Infantry Division. The source of the second cited report is 1st Lt. Bogdanov, Russian deserter, formerly a member of the 506th Infantry Regiment of the 198th Infantry Division.]

[PW] Sudarev saw German prisoners of war and deserters at his regimental CP . . . in June of this year [1943]. He personally attended the interrogation of two German prisoners. These particular prisoners and deserters belonged to the 121st Infantry Division. At regimental and divisional level, prisoners and deserters are briefly interrogated. On the same day, they are sent on to army where the detailed interrogation takes place. Until they reach army level, prisoners and deserters are not separated. They receive the same rations as the Russian soldiers. Treatment of German prisoners by Russian officers and enlisted men up to army level is allegedly good. They are permitted to retain insignia of rank, decorations, and personal property. Sudarev did not witness the mistreatment or shooting of German prisoners of war and claims that such excesses do not occur. . . .

Questions about German Prisoners of War

[Note: When Russian prisoners were questioned about treatment of German prisoners by the Russians, they practically always emphasized the fact that the Germans were treated humanely -- an understandable response!]

\* Source: Interrogation Report, dtd 19 Oct 43, and Interrogation Report, dtd 2 Oct 43, in G-2 file of Army Group North, Ic/AO, Kgf.-Vernehmungen 1, 26.VIII.-12.XII.43.

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[PW] Bogdanov saw . . . approximately ten German prisoners of war in February of this year [1943]. The [capturing] units took the prisoners immediately to division, where they were questioned for the most part in the presence of the division commander. He [PW] attended several interrogations. During the interrogation, treatment is not bad. Cigarettes are offered; the prisoners are permitted to sit and are immediately given something to eat. Interrogations last at least three hours. During such interrogations, questions are asked concerning, among other things, the [German] reaction to Russian leaflet propaganda and the morale and food situation in Germany. In most instances, German prisoners give only little information and reply mostly with: "I don't know." All prisoners which Bagdanov saw made a very good impression on him. Bogdanov states that he does not know of any pressure having been applied in order to increase the prisoners' willingness to testify. The prisoners are subsequently sent on to army where further interrogation takes place. Wounded prisoners are allegedly admitted to hospitals where they are kept separate from the Russians. The same holds true for sick prisoners. Bogdanov heard nothing about the shooting of German prisoners. . . .

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Item 8\*

Treatment of a Captured Auxiliary /Russian National serving  
the Germans/ by the Russians

[Note: The subject of this report was deserter Mustafajev, formerly a member of the 7th Independent Penal Company, 153rd Infantry Replacement and Training Regiment. Mustafajev, who had served the Germans as an auxiliary, was captured by the Russians, but managed to escape to the German lines.]

[The auxiliary was interrogated by the Special Section. The German prisoner had apparently been questioned as to whether the auxiliary had mistreated Russian prisoners; in any event, the interrogator put on a "show of knowledge." During his evacuation to corps headquarters and upon his arrival, the auxiliary was repeatedly beaten. Here he was again interrogated, confined to a cell, and finally assigned to a penal company.]

When [German] Corporal Kruse of the 1st Company, 552d Infantry Regiment, and the subject of this report [auxiliary Mustafajev] were captured by a Russian patrol in front of the German MIR, they were immediately gagged and their hands tied behind their backs. After they had returned to the Russian MIR, they were immediately taken to the CP of the 200th Infantry Division. Five officers, under the command of a major in the Intelligence Service, received them in a bunker with shouts of joy about the successful patrolling mission.

Corporal Kruse had to place his personal belongings on the table: one watch, three lighters, money, and a pistol. The major

\*Source: Interrogation Report, dtd 22 Jan 44, in G-2 File of Army Group North, Ic/ AO, Gefangenen-Vernehmungen, 15.XII.43 - 6.III.44

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appropriated the watch, one lighter, and the money. The remaining items also disappeared immediately. Then the two prisoners were asked a few brief questions. Cpl. Kruse was asked about his unit and the auxiliary was examined in order to ascertain whether he wore the sleeve insignia of the "Vlassovzy." He was asked whether he belonged to them. During this questioning, the major repeatedly slapped his face, saying at the same time that he would not beat the German soldier, because he could not be held responsible for having to fight.

Then, white bread, a piece of bacon, hard tack, half a pail of soup, and two cigarettes were brought in. During the meal, the two prisoners were permitted to talk to each other. Again the auxiliary was accused of being a Vlassovez /Vlassov man/. The major then asked the auxiliary how long the German Wehrmacht intended to fight. Subsequently, the major led the two prisoners before the division commander. The general asked: "Are both of them Krauts? . . . /Turning to the auxiliary/ "Ah, you have become a turncoat; you cannot even be recognized." The two men were then deprived of their winter camouflage suits and mention was made of the fact that the suits would be useful to the /Russian/ troops in future operations. The general then turned to the subject of this report: "How did you bring yourself to betraying your mother country? . . . So, you have become a Dobrovolez /volunteer/?" "Yes." "How many prisoners are over there? Why did you not desert to the partisans or to the Red Army? So, you were a Vlassovez.

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Did you ever see him General Vlassov? Will the Germans continue to fight? How is their food situation? How about their transportation? Have you been able to ascertain anything? Do they get mail or don't they? What do you think about Berlin? Has 30 per cent of the town been destroyed by bombs? Do you know Berlin well? Do you know that there was a conference in Iran? And how does Hitler feel with his troops being surrounded?

Subject replied that he had served with the train and had no knowledge of all these things. Deserting was not a very simple matter.

"In other words, you only worked for the Germans. Hm. Hm. . . . You may smoke."

Then the auxiliary was taken to the "Special Section" and did not see the captured German soldier again. . . .

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Item 9\*

[Note: The deponents, Pvt. Wilhelm Huizenga and Pfc. Wilhelm Schwerdt, had been captured by the Russians and had returned to the German lines. A letter of transmittal by the G-2 Section of the 294th Infantry Division states that the two soldiers returned with an espionage mission and that the depositions reveal their having committed high treason. As shown in the depositions, the two soldiers were confronted with each other's stories by the investigating officer, and several discrepancies were found. Since the two soldiers had formerly held Dutch and Polish citizenship, respectively, it appears that their loyalty was considered very doubtful. The final disposition of the case is not indicated in the document, aside from the fact that the two soldiers were turned over to corps.]

Deposition of Wilhelm Huizenga:

. . . We did not resist at the time of capture. We were immediately disarmed; all utilitarian articles and valuables were taken away from us, and we were stripped of our fur vests and drawers. I retained my identification tag for the time being. Then we were transported to the nearest locality and taken before an officer (lieutenant). The latter called for two additional officers and a commissar holding the rank of a captain (Commissar Severt). We were questioned about the artillery of the "Doghead" and "Shamrock" Divisions and also about the number of vehicles [in these divisions]. When I was asked to name my unit, I complied. I was asked about my regimental commander, whom I did not know. When questioned about the morale [of the Germans], I stated that it was good. I furnished information on ration allowances to the extent that they were known to me. I made these statements without compulsion. As to my

Source: Depositions, dtd 20 Jan 43, in G-2 File of 294th Infantry Division, Anlagen zum Taetigkeitsbericht, Abt. Ic, Anlageband I, 29.XII.42 - 24.I.43.

nationality, I stated that I was a German and concealed my former Dutch citizenship.

[Comment of officer taking Huizenga's deposition] When exception was taken to this statement, Huizenga denied that he had informed the Russians of his former Dutch nationality.

The soldiers of German nationality were evacuated further to the rear, whereas a former Pole and I stayed with the Russians. The Pole spoke perfect Russian. The commissar then told us that German soldiers holding the rank of sergeant and above would be shot. Lower-ranking soldiers would be evacuated to the rear to perform labor. After approximately one to one and a half hours, two additional prisoners were brought into our room. One of them was a 1st lieutenant, whose exact name I cannot recall - I believe it was Balling - and the other was a private. Both were members of a Luftwaffe construction battalion. According to their statements, both had removed their own rank insignia. These two members of the Wehrmacht were also interrogated individually. Later, two more prisoners were brought in, among them the private first class . . . named Willi [Pfc. Wilhelm Schwerdt], with whom I was later sent back to the German lines. This pfc. was from Katowice and was later called "Polski" by the Russians, a fact which made me assume that he had formerly been a Pole. After we had spent the night in another building, the next morning . . . saw us marching south under escort together with the infantry. . . . On 18 January, at noon, seven of the prisoners . . . were separated [from our shipment]

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and evacuated. Pfc. Willi and I were held back. I was called to the commissar and was requested to write a letter to my comrades-in-arms. Its contents was to be something like this: "Dear comrades! I am a prisoner of the Russians. I am faring very well indeed. Food and drink are good. Treatment by the Russian officers was not as bad as you were always told. I am not sorry that I have become a prisoner of the Russians. Surrender if you can, and the war will be over for you." This letter was read to me. At first I refused to write this letter and was sent back to my room. Shortly thereafter, Pfc. Willi, who had remained in the officers' room, returned to me in order to take me to the commissar. When I asked him what I should do, Pfc. Willi said that I had to write the letter; otherwise I would be shot. When I came to the room, I wrote the letter and signed it with my full name. Below that I added: "Read and pass on." I had to write this letter ten times. Pfc. Willi took those letters without voicing any objections. I had the impression that he knew what to do with them. When I asked him to what use these letters were to be put, he told me that I should not talk so much and that we would go back to the German lines that night. . . .

The deposition states further that the two soldiers were taken to a senior Russian officer, who had a talk with Pfc. Willi. Shortly thereafter, they were taken to the bank of the Donets and issued a rifle each but no ammunition. The German lines were pointed out to them, and once they arrived there they identified themselves as

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German soldiers. Questioned about the letters, Huizenga reiterated that he had followed Willi Schwerdt's instructions for fear of being shot. He also stated that Schwerdt and not the commissar had acquainted him with the mission of crossing over to the German lines. When confronted with Schwerdt, Huizenga denied that the commissar had entrusted him with an espionage mission and stated that Schwerdt had informed him of the mission.7

Deposition of Wilhelm Schwerdt:

. . . When I stepped out of the house, I was taken prisoner by the Russians. Although I had a weapon, I did not make use of it but let myself be captured without offering resistance. I was taken in a car to a German-speaking officer - I believe he was a captain - who interrogated me. My papers were taken away from me. I was asked about my unit and gave the number of my division. When asked about the morale of the German troops, I said that it was not particularly good. To a question about frostbite, I replied that its incidence was not very great. I could not furnish any information about artillery. I reported the strength of our company as ninety men. As for the adjacent units, I possessed no information. I was asked whether officers known to me were among my eight fellow prisoners, and I replied in the negative. I described the food situation as very good. We were then taken before a commissar, who asked the same questions. One day, I was again called before the commissar, since I speak a little Russian. He requested me to cross

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over to the German lines and return after I had reconnoitered the [German] units in that sector. I accepted this mission. Pvt. Huizenga was asked the same question, and he, too, declared himself willing to carry out the mission. Thereupon we were given a warm meal. The other prisoners were fed in the same manner. We were requested to write a letter to the German soldiers. I refused because of my poor handwriting. Huizenga immediately complied with this request. He wrote ten letters with a pencil and later two additional ones with ink. I took these letters, having been charged by the commissar to distribute them among my [German] comrades. We . . . were subsequently taken by two Russian soldiers . . . to a captain, who gave us more detailed instructions regarding our way to the German lines.

[Schwerdt's account of the line-crossing agrees substantially with that of Huizenga. The latter, according to Schwerdt, burnt the letters behind the German lines. When confronted with Huizenga, Schwerdt again admitted to having accepted the espionage mission. His advice to Huizenga with regard to writing the letters had been: "It's up to you." When writing the final two letters with ink, Huizenga was asked whether he wanted to participate in the espionage mission and replied in the affirmative. The deposition also brings out that Schwerdt's name was formerly Schweda and that he was a Polish citizen. He is alleged to have concealed the former and to have denied the latter fact while testifying, for purposes of the deposition. The concluding paragraph of the latter contains a reiteration of Schwerdt's denial to have advised the writing of the letters.]

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Item 10 \*

[Note: The two deponents, Pfc. Simon Mayr and Pfc. Bruno Bittner, had escaped from Russian captivity and were required to record their experiences.]

Depositions of Pfc. Simon Mayr:

. . . I was surrounded on all sides. Fourteen Russians pounced on me, hit me in the neck three times with rifle butts, and robbed me of my personal possessions (wrist watch, comb, mirror, etc.). Four or five of them led me to an officer, who took my paybook, knife, field cap, and gloves, away from me. . . . One guard marched me to West Potapov. Enroute, passing Russians kicked me . . . and jeered at me, saying things such as "Hitler kaput." In West Potapov I was locked into a cellar for the time being. Here I met my buddy, Pfc. Bittner, again. Two guards were posted before the cellar door.

After about an hour and a half, we were taken from the cellar, and interrogated individually in a room. (Battalion CP?) The interrogation was conducted by an interpreter, a commissar, and two officers. The interpreter spoke good German and did not have the characteristics of a Jew.

\*Source: Deposition, dtd 22 Jan 43, and Deposition, dtd 29 Jan 43, in G-2 File of 62d Infantry Division, Abt 1 C, Taetigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen, 1.VII.42 - 28.II.43.

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Prior to the interrogation, I was warned by the interrogator approximately as follows: "I call your attention to the fact that you must tell the whole truth. Should we establish the opposite, you will be shot."

The interrogation covered approximately the following questions: Personal data, my regiment, the strength of the company, the names of the commanding officers, and our heavy infantry weapons. Since my answers were misleading and did not appear plausible, they held a pistol against my chest three times during the interrogation. After the interrogation, my money (50.-reichsmarks) as well as the rest of my personal belongings (lighter, flints, etc.) were taken away from me. The interrogation had lasted about half an hour. Thereupon, a guard took me back to the cellar, to which Pfc. Bittner, too, had been confined again.

About noon the next day, a truck took us further to the rear, probably to regimental headquarters. There, four officers interrogated me again along the same lines as before. While they did so they twice held a pistol against me chest. After the interrogation, I was locked with Bittner and another recently added comrade into a cellar. Some time later, a commissar came . . . to look after us. We asked him for food . . . . Later, one of our guards handed us a few spoonfuls of soup and two slices of bread. At 2000, a guard marched us further to the rear. Enroute,

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the guard, who spoke some German, told us that we would go to Siberia. Lack of watchfulness on the part of the guard enabled us to communicate with each other, and we decided to gain "liberty or death."

When the guard came as close as one meter, we pounced on him, knocked him unconscious, and fled. . . .

Deponent and his comrades were separated while trying to reach the German lines. Mayr joined a group of isolated Germans, with whom he fought his way back to the German outposts.7

Deposition of Pfc. Bruno Bittner:

Note: Bittner made two separate depositions regarding his experiences as a Russian prisoner of war -- on 27 Jan 43 and again on 29 Jan 43. The two depositions, both of which are contained in the original source, agree on all essential points. The second one was more detailed and was therefore selected for inclusion in this appendix. A comparison of Mayr's and Bittner's deposition shows Mayr in a rather unfavorable light. The reaction of the investigating officer may be judged from his concluding remark on Bittner's deposition, in which the latter is described as an upright and soldierly individual.7

On the day of my capture . . . I was to relieve a machine gunner . . . . Three men in camouflage suits approached me. . . . When they faced me, one of them raised his hands, and it was only then I saw their Russian burp guns. They grabbed me immediately, searched my pockets, and took my cigarettes away. Then they took me to the nearby village (Werch.Potapoff) on the Donets. There I was interrogated by an interpreter and an officer. . . . I was asked what part of Germany I was from and whether my parents were

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living. When asked about my company, I answered that I belonged to Company "Schenke." I also told them, upon being asked, the number of my regiment and division. When they wanted to know the name of the division commander, I replied that at first it had been General Keiner and then General von Obstfelder. I claimed that I did not know the names of their successors.

According to the deponent, further questions dealt with the whereabouts of German soldiers and tanks on the west bank of the Donets, the number of guns, the strength of the complement in the German-occupied village, the armament of the complement, the strength of the squads, and the presence of field fortifications.

I stated that there were still some old fortifications around. In reply to the question whether there were any bunkers which could be improved on, I said that there were two on the hill which we wanted to fix up as living quarters. They wrote that down immediately. Then they asked about morale. I told them it was not very high at the moment. When they asked me whether any of our men wanted to desert, I told them that I did not know. They also questioned me about our rations, and I told them that we received half a loaf of bread per day, that the mid-day meal was good, and that we got enough to eat. They both replied that Russian soldiers got a whole loaf of bread every day.

My answers were rather vague. . . . The interpreter told me that I would be taken to a prisoner-of-war camp where we would get

enough to eat and to smoke as well as off-duty time and where we would be employed according to our occupations.

The interpreter spoke good German. Before the interrogation they did not threaten to shoot me in case I did not tell the truth. They did not level a pistol against my chest, either. After the questioning, they took my papers, paybook, purse, and watch. We each got a piece of bread.

About 2200, I was taken once more from the cellar in order to bandage two wounded fellow prisoners. I don't know who they were. Mayr and Cpl. Braun were in the cellar with me. We then slept until morning. At 0600, we and the two wounded prisoners were put on a truck and driven twenty kilometers due east to the rear. Before we left, we were told that we would be shot if we made an attempt to escape. We were then taken to another command post, apparently a regimental headquarters. There we were again interrogated by an interpreter, a captain, and several commissars. The questions were the same as before. I gave the same answers. Afterwards, we were again locked into a cellar, given straw to lie on, a container of cabbage soup and meat for the three of us, and plenty of bread.

Later, a commissar came down to see them and talked to the corporal who knew some Russian. Subsequently, the commissar left, only to return and shout an obscene threat.

We then slept again until evening. About 2000, a Ukrainian guard -- who said he was from Charkov -- came to get us. He marched us seven kilometers south to a locality from where we were to be



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sent to the prisoner-of-war camp. Shortly before reaching the village, we conspired to slug the guard. We let him come a little closer and engaged him in conversation. On a previously arranged signal, Braun and I knocked him down. Mayr stood passively by. When we told him to help us -- he could see what was at stake -- he said that he was unable to do anything like that. We messed up the guard pretty badly and wanted to take his pistol too. Then two trucks appeared with their headlights on, so that we had to flee. . . . I parted from the other two . . . . I thought it a better idea to take a trail west which was bound to lead me to the Donets. It is not true that we were pursued and dispersed by Russians. Without having met a single Russian, I crossed the Donets about 0900. I went into the woods there and then to a village where I met German troops. . . .

I was not asked whether I was willing to return to the German lines in order to encourage my comrades to desert. Neither was I asked to sign any kind of document. I was neither mistreated nor threatened with death. . . .

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[Deposition of Pfc. Johann Kolodziejczyk who had escaped from Soviet captivity.]:

. . . . On 6 August 1943, I became a Russian prisoner. . . . First, they took my rifle and belt and brought me to the command post in Koshelevo. There they stole all my belongings including my wallet, dogtags, and boots. They gave me a wornout pair of boots in return. They also ripped the wound, cavalry, and national emblems from my blouse as well as my shoulder straps. From Koshelevo they brought me to a command post in the vicinity. On the way to the CP, a general stopped me and asked some questions. At the CP an officer hit me repeatedly because I could not answer him and did not understand his Russian questions. I was there for only a short time, but on my way there several Russian soldiers tried to attack me, and only the protection of my guard saved me from being completely beaten. From the CP, they brought me to a village where I was interrogated by an interpreter who was perhaps a Jew. He asked me the following questions: What was my organization? How was our morale? Why was I fighting? How was our food? How was our fighting spirit? Did we know the Russians had recaptured Orel? What had I seen in Prvansh? How long had I been a soldier? What was in the conversations between officers

\*Source: Deposition, dtd 9 Aug 43, in 102nd Infantry Division File, GMDS #37 539/8.

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and enlisted men? Was there enough bread? What do we know about the fate of Mussolini?

Personal questions about my life and doings were asked by young women who also prepared the food. They were uniformed as officers. They asked me to go back to the German lines and give propaganda talks so that more Germans would desert. I refused. After the interrogation I was locked in an earthen shelter.

I was interrogated once more in the evening and told that other PW's had given more details. Once more they asked me to give more details. There was another German prisoner in the cellar with me, but I do not know his organization. In the afternoon, four German prisoners who had been in the cellar were led off to a prison camp. I managed to escape because during the night the guard fell asleep. . . .

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Item 12\*

[Note: The subjects of this report are Capt. Krinsky, formerly interpreter with the G-2 Section of the 318th Infantry Division, and Major Menshov, formerly operations officer (G-3) of the 318th Infantry Division.]

Prisoner of War Set-Up

The interrogation of prisoners of war is handled by the following:

1. The intelligence officer whose questions deal with tactical and O/B information in order to obtain a clearer picture of the current enemy situation.

2. The political Section which asks questions concerning economics and politics, morale, discipline, treatment of prisoners of war, etc.

[Depending upon the significance of the prisoner's testimony, he is sent to the division, corps, or army group intelligence officer. The intelligence officer, however, has no influence on the future destiny of the prisoner of war beyond the opportunity of making an entry in the prisoner's dossier (protocol). After the intelligence officer and the political section have completed their interrogations, the prisoner is handed over to the NKVD.]

\*

Source: Consolidated Interrogation Report, sts 16 Dec 13, in G-2 File of Seventeenth Army, Beilage 1 zum K.T.B. Nr. 8, Anlage V (Ic Gefangenenvern), 10.X. - 31.XII.43.

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3. The NKVD interrogates him about German armament and war potential as well as intelligence matters and considers his possible usefulness for intelligence work. The NKVD interrogators then decides what final disposition is to be made of the prisoner.

The political interrogation always begins with the question: "Why are you fighting against a nation of workers and peasants?" Treatment varies with the prisoner's willingness to testify. Pressure methods are also used, (starvation, beatings). Prisoners of war are employed in road construction, the rebuilding of Stalingrad, etc. They receive sufficient rations; deserters get more. Many of the guards are Romanian and Slovak deserters who treat the Germans badly. In the Russian rear areas, many German prisoners of war (probably deserters) work unguarded and are quartered in civilian homes.

Because of the disproportionate ratio in the numbers of captured enlisted man and officers, the government stresses the importance of sending captured German officers to officer prisoner-of-war camps.

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In mid-March 1945, the Subject (German lieutenant) was taken prisoner by the Russians in Silesia. He was escorted with two other German officers. . . . to a village where they were interrogated by the Russians. A captain P--- was the interrogator. . . . During the course of his interrogation, the Subject was shown a propaganda leaflet written in German which he criticized as not being of the right composition to appeal to the German mentality. This appeared to interest his interrogator who later told him that he could choose between a prisoner camp or helping the Russians with their propaganda. After short consideration, Subject accepted the second alternative. . . . His first assignment was broadcasting by loud speaker from a truck. . . . Next he worked about two weeks producing propaganda leaflets. . . . then he went back to the truck. [Subject was later sent to an "antifa" school and became a Soviet agent in the American zone of occupation in Germany.]

\*  
Source: EUCOM, ID, Interorganization Rpt, dtd 12 Apr 49, sub: MGB Operational Techniques, (TS), p 10. [Date of information, March 1945].

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[Note: Source was a prisoner in the USSR from 1945 to 1947 and was last in an MVD prison in Leningrad. This is an excerpt from the report.]

Interrogations were carried out at night just after the prisoners had gone to sleep. The interrogation rooms were on the ground floor of the prison, and if anyone was met in the corridor while going there, the prisoner was obliged to stand facing the wall until the other person had passed.

As long as source was in the prison, he never saw or heard anything about atrocities. He states that sometimes the interrogator slapped a man across the face or kicked him, but this treatment was considered legal.

The interrogator sometimes threatened source that he would be shot immediately if he did not say or write what was wanted, but most of the time the interrogator was rather courteous. According to source, the lack of rest, the monotony of the questions which were repeated over and over again, and above all the intense hunger were sufficient to break the strongest man, if he had anything at all to say. Those men who had weaker nerves often signed statements which were absolutely false so as to be left alone. In very difficult cases, when a man resisted, he was placed in solitary confinement in a dark

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Source: 7707 ECIC, Rpt RT - 494 - 50(CI - 986), dtd 17 May 50, sub: MVD Prison in Leningrad, USSR, (S).  
[Date of information, July 1947].

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cell and was kept there until he confessed, or until he signed any statement the MVD required.

Interrogators often kept the prisoners waiting for long periods before interrogating. One of the source's cell mates had waited two hundred days before he was called in. . . . The chief interrogator for German prisoners was MVD Major R---, an Estonian by birth. . . . He told source that he had been in jail for four years in England on an espionage charge. He speaks fluent German and source supposes that he speaks English, French, and Estonian.

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In their interrogations, the Soviets usually followed the practice of taking the defendant unawares. If they wanted to extort a confession, the accused was roused from his sleep after a hard day of work rushed to the interrogation room, and accused point blank of some crime. This procedure would be repeated for several nights in succession, and after weeks and months had passed the whole procedure would be re-enacted. Threats and tempting offers of freedom were alternately used as well as requests for signed statements denouncing others. A single small contradiction in testimony taken during several months' time, or even a year, was regarded as prima facie evidence of guilt. Sentences of several years were customarily given for minor offences. Russian civilians were punished the same way -- when a PW was convicted, he lost his status as a PW for the duration of his sentence and was immediately transferred to a Russian civilian convict labor camp. . . .

\*Source: 7001st AISS, USAFE, Air Historical Research Information Reports, dtd 13 Dec 48, sub: Soviet Treatments of German PW's para. g.

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SS men reported extremely severe and cruel methods of interrogation employed by the Soviets during the first two years of the war. They were required to work at exhausting tasks; and when they had gone to bed and were asleep, they were awakened for interrogation. They were often subjected to extreme cold, bright lights, damp cellars, and other such conditions which tend to break a man's moral fiber. They were often slapped, kicked in the genital organs, struck with the butts of rifles, and threatened with death. This process continued for a week, a month, and sometimes almost a year. At length a confession was prepared in Russian and the PW's were asked to sign it. A translation of the document was denied. The Russians would ask the PW about the number of Russians he had killed, the number of bridges he had destroyed, or the number of domestic animals that he had slaughtered. The Russians attempted to convict the PW of issuing, forwarding, or carrying out orders with which Russian partisans or civilians were forcibly evacuated or deported, shot to death, or raped, or by which buildings were burned, railroad lines, agricultural areas, livestock, food, and everyday articles of the Russian civilians were destroyed.

\*Source: 7001 AISS - USAFE, Air Intelligence Information Report No. 10-172-1, 10 Jan 1950. sub: Treatment of PW's in the USSR (S) 10 Jan 1950 [Date of information; 1945 - 9. Based on 230 interrogations by 6 interrogators.]

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Almost 100 per cent of the prisoners were interrogated by the Soviet IVD personnel. The interrogations chiefly concerned military and political background, committed war crimes, such as setting fire to villages during combat action, fighting against guerillas, displacing of the population, guarding the Soviet IV's, etc. There was in addition, a close check for members of the SS, rear-areas [military government] headquarters and other special former Wehrmacht units. The majority of the PW's noted the following predominating interrogation methods; threatening with guns; beating; food reduction; false promises; imprisonment; transferring to slave labor camps; and collecting of information by spies infiltrated into the PW camps or by fellow PW's forced to spy on their comrades.

\*Source: Team 12, OSI, IG, USAFE, Positive Intelligence Report No. 12-199-0250, dtd 20 Feb 50, sub: Russian Treatment and Interrogation of German PW's, (S).

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a. General: a study of individual reports given by returned German PW's about their treatment by the USSR while in Soviet PW camps reveals a general uniformity in some respects in spite of differences in conditions among various camps. First, living conditions improved, particularly after 1949, insofar as food was concerned. In most cases, the returned PW's said that, beginning in 1949, they were able to purchase additional food; shelter improved if the PW's improved their own quarters. Second, there was a general scarcity of clothing for PW's during their internment. Third, medical treatment suffered because of the lack of sufficient medicines. Fourth, working conditions were described as bad because of the high quota of production required from each prisoner. Fifth, all PW's were given "Antifa" indoctrination either twice or three times a week. (Anti-American indoctrination was given in some camps and not in others.) Sixth, arrests of PW's were frequent and arrest without food appears to have been commonly employed; mistreatment of PW's by threats, with pistols, or by beatings were cited frequently by those furnishing information for this report. Seventh, interrogation by the Soviets was said to have been conducted mainly at night,

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Source: Team 15, 7020 AF CI Unit, USAFE, Positive Intelligence Report No. 15 - 179 - 250, sub: Russian Treatment and Interrogation of German PW's, (s).

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at different hours, with cross-interrogation of different PW's in the same camp. . . .

g. Interrogation Methods Employed by the Soviet:

(1) The returned PW's were in agreement that interrogations were held at night at different hours. One source, from POW Camp No. 7125/4 at Proletarsk, however, described interrogations as lasting "weeks and weeks" with threats of imprisonment in Siberia. Threats with pistols were frequently referred to by returned PW's as were arrest without food.

(2) Source from [two different camps]. . . reported that mistreatment of PW's had occurred during interrogation and that beatings had been administered. According to one source, former SS men were sent to a PW camp near Tbilisi . . . but he was unable to give this camp's exact location.

(3) One interrogation method . . . was the practice of having a PW released and started on his way home. At the second railroad station, the PW would be picked up by Soviet police, returned to the prison, and reinterrogated. This same source described the slapping of interogatees by hand and with a stick during some interrogations.

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In many instances threats or actual physical violence were used during interrogation. The military background and political background of prisoners were favorite subjects of interrogation. Some prisoners were interrogated as many as thirty times over a long period of time. During these interrogations, information on activities of German military units in the USSR during the war was a primary subject. Information leading to evidence of a war crime committed in the USSR was followed through thoroughly. Many ordinary prisoners were not interrogated at all. In compiling the information given by a prisoner, it is apparent that the Soviets had no standard methods of interrogation. Soviet interrogators seemed to use methods best suited to gain the desired information, and went to all extremes to gain the information.

\*

Source: Team 6, 7020 AFCE Unit, USAFE, Positive Intelligence Report No. 6 - 137 - 0250, dtd Feb 50, sub: Russian Treatment and Interrogation of German POW's, (S). [Date of information, 1944-9].

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. . . Source was taken to the MVD headquarters to be interrogated shortly prior to his release in 1949. Source later deduced that this interrogation was conducted to establish what connection, if any, source's work had with espionage activities behind the Russian lines. . . .

. The Russian interrogator started by asking source what unit and service he had been with during the war. . . . He then asked him how many Morse code letters source could take down. . . . The interrogator then spent the next hour asking him about how Germans intercepted Russian radio traffic, how they located Russian transmitters, and questions about wave lengths of German equipment. . . . Source became aware that the Russians's technical qualifications were very limited, but he also sensed that this was not the reason for the interview. Eventually, the Russian wanted to know, casually, if source had made contact with clandestine transmitters behind the Russian lines. Source denied this, stating that he believed that another section of his unit was charged with this responsibility. . . . The interrogator appeared to be rather annoyed over his failure to secure an admission that source participated in this service, but did not

\*Source: 7001 Air Intelligence Su Sq, Air Historical Research Information Report No. T-008042-4-511C, Jan 49, (S).

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threaten him nor use brutality against him. Source was returned to camp after four hours.

Source stated that he considered himself to be very fortunate in having been interrogated under these circumstances. He said that normally interrogation took place in the PW camp and was conducted by the camp commissar, or by some visiting commission. Whenever the Russians were faced with a denial by a subject during these interrogations, they would use brutality which in some instances, involved hitting the subject's face with a pistol butt. If no admission was secured in this fashion, then the German would be subjected to unmerciful interrogation techniques which included solitary confinement in cold and wet bunkers, etc. When the German eventually decided to make an admission, merely to be rid of this "special attention," the treatment was intensified instead, evidently on the theory that if he would admit one thing, further attention would make him tell other things. Such an interrogation ended up with the subject being totally broken. Source reported one such instance in which the German admitted nothing, was finally given a glass of vodka, patted on the back, and given an offer from the MVD to work for them as a stool pigeon.

[From paragraph 7: Comment] It should be noted that the source was interrogated on his military duties after four years had elapsed. That the intent of the interrogation was not to

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produce military information but to produce evidence which could be used to punish source and/or others for intelligence work which was a normal duty for the individual. From comments by the source on the experiences by others, it is also apparent that refusal to talk in many cases resulted in mistreatment, a recognition by the Russian interrogator of his inability to handle the subject, and that any admission after mistreatment resulted only in further beatings, solitary confinement, etc., evidently on the theory that if one action produced results, continued brutality would produce further information.

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[Note: Source, a former sergeant in the SS, was captured by the Russians on 6 Feb 1945. He shot away an SS tatoo mark before capture but was suspected by the Russians of having been a member of the SS].

. . . Early in 1947, Source was summoned to the MVD office in Kiyev which was located in the university lecture section. There he was told that he was suspected of being a member or officer of the SS by other prisoners. Until October 1947, source was interrogated approximately sixteen times, usually between 2000 and 0400. He was mainly cross-examined by three or four interrogators. After entering the room, source usually had to wear a furcoat and sit down beside a hot stove. Then he was asked to confess that he had been an SS officer and told that there would be enough witnesses to prove this fact. Scholz always asked to be confronted with these witnesses but never was. He was also very often beaten with wooden sticks and struck over the head with gun/stocks. During the day, he had to work as usual. Despite this treatment, source never confessed being a member of the SS.

In October 1947, source was transferred to a PW camp. . . in Stalino where he was employed in a coal mine. Early in 1948,

\*Source: Team 4, OSI, IG, USAFE, Positive Intelligence Report No. 4-295-0350. 9 March 50.

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new interrogation by MVD, which was located beside the camp, started. Here he was again interrogated three times in the same manner as in Kiyev. After these interrogations, he was called in once more, in May 1948, to meet a Russian MVD General, who had been sent from Moscow with six more interrogators. Source was treated in the usual way. This interrogation had to be broken up several times when source fainted due to severe beatings. At this interrogation, source was shown his "Wehrpass" which the Russians had secured in Breslau. It carried his picture as well as his signature and information concerning his service. [Source had falsified his name and unit on capture.] Source still denied that he had been a member of the SS. After the interrogation, source was taken to the camp and thrown into the cellar on a concrete floor. It was strictly forbidden to give him any food or medical care. Despite this order, the commander of the camp brought him some food. . . . He also received some medical care consisting principally of injections. Source lived like this for a period of three weeks. During this time, source was visited by MVD agents or officers every night, awakened, and questioned again. After this, source remained in the camp for four days and then started to work again in the coal mine. . . .

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1. German PW's repatriated during the last months of 1949 report that in September and October 1949 MVD men not belonging to the PW camps arrived with lists of German PW's who at one time were members of units accused of atrocities on Soviet territory. Those PW's were then subjected to protracted interrogations.

2. Interrogations took place during the night in order that the PW's output should not be lost during the working day. The procedure during interrogations varied from a correct approach to acts of sheer brutality. The following are examples of the letter:

a. At one camp, PW's were offered cigarettes. When they went to accept one, the cigarette boxes were slammed shut, cutting the PW's fingers to the bone. The interrogation continued with the PW's fingers still jammed in the box.

b. A PW was squeezed into a cell approximately one and one half meters high which could contain one person only. An electric bulb of 100 watts in the ceiling was switched on. The prisoner was kept in this cell for 10 to 20 hours. When cells of this kind were opened, the prisoner was usually found in an unconscious state and upon being awakened with

\*Source: CIA Information Report No. SO 38648, Oct 49, sub: Retention of German PW's in the USSR, (S).

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icy water, was immediately interrogated. Thus physically weakened, he usually "confessed" to all of which he was accused. After the prisoner signed the "confession," the MVD interrogators became very pleasant and presented the "guilty" prisoner with food and cigarettes. The trial took place a few weeks later, and the prisoner was sentenced. Sentences ranged from 5 to 15 years of forced labor.

3. The following "crimes" were enough to cause a prisoner to be sentenced:

- a. To have stolen chickens on Soviet territory during the war.
- b. To have been a driver transporting Soviet civilians from east to west.
- c. To have been an interpreter who participated in the interrogations of Soviet prisoners of war.
- d. To have been a "landesschuetze" (older soldier) guarding Soviet prisoners of war on Soviet territory.
- e. To have fought against Soviet partisans.

4. It is estimated by returning prisoners that by such methods about 25 to 30 per cent of all prisoners of war in these camps were being retained. The prisoners retained after the evacuation were mainly from the following categories:

- a. SS units
- b. Police and Military Police regiments
- c. Security divisions
- d. The more intelligent prisoners

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Item 23 \*

The treatment received by the prisoners in the camps varied. There are very few reports of brutality by foremen on the job, none of them occurring after 1946. The interrogation techniques varied with the camp involved. They were mostly concerned with finding men who had been members of units which were known to the Russians to have been in areas where atrocities had been committed. It seems that the Russians have a theory of collective guilt in such cases; that is, each member of the unit is guilty of any crime which may have been committed. The interrogation resulted from straight denouncements by one prisoner of another. The denouncement was motivated by spite or by a desire to obtain material benefits as a stool pigeon. In such cases, the MVD usually tried to find another prisoner to corroborate the "evidence," and such statements were usually sufficient to insure punishment for the accused. Both the accused and the witness, but not the informant, underwent an interrogation.

In one camp no special efforts were made to intimidate except that the interrogator would get out his pistol, play with it, and lay it on his desk without mentioning it is so many words.

\*Source: Air Historical Research Area: USSR, 22 Nov 49 (S)  
[Date of information 1944-49].

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However, some camps had special punishment cells of interrogations. These cells . . . measured sixty centimeters square, and the subject was unable to lie down. Some of these cells contained a layer of water with a couple of stepping stones so that the subject had to stand on them to keep from getting wet and consequently freezing if the temperature happened to be low. At least one instance has been reported where a man froze both feet in such a cell, and his feet had to be amputated. After refusing to admit guilt, or to testify against the accused as desired by the interrogator, the subject would be placed in one of the cells so he would have time to meditate. In this connection it should be noted that those tried and found guilty are removed from the status of prisoners of war and are classified as penal prisoners (Strafgefangene) after sentence. This provides a technicality under which prisoners may be kept indefinitely although Moscow may state that all prisoners of war have been released. There are some hints that this procedure is being utilized to retain needed specialists.

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1. The following information was derived by the interrogation of 200 [returned German] prisoners of war between 1 December 1949 and 10 February 1950.

2. In general, 90 per cent of the prisoners interviewed stated that the treatment received, while they were prisoners of the Russians, was very bad. All of the prisoners stated that they were periodically beaten and mistreated. Food, consisted of 400 grams of bread and 500 grams of soup and meat [daily]. Prisoners received meat in an average of twice a week; this meat was of the worst quality. Shelter consisted of plain wooden bunks without mattresses, and each prisoner received one blanket. Heating of barracks was kept at a minimum, and wood was rationed. . . . In most cases, room temperatures did not exceed 55 degrees. Medical care and treatment was very bad and most camps lacked medical supplies. The German doctors tried their best with the equipment on hand. Many prisoners died from exhaustion, malnutrition, and tuberculosis. Working conditions were unbearable and each prisoner had a quota to meet which was practically impossible on a ten-hour-day schedule. Propaganda against capitalistic systems, specifically against the United States, was preached daily for one hour. Ninety per cent of the

\*Source: Team 11, 7020 AF CI Unit, USAFE, Positive Intelligence Report No. 11-105-0250, sub: Russian Treatment and Interrogation of German PW's, dtd 10 Feb 50, (S)

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the prisoners stated that they were not very impressed with the communistic system and were not lightly misled by Russian propaganda methods employed. Interrogation methods employed by the Russians were brutal. In many instances prisoners were imprisoned in a cell one meter by one meter; these cells were unheated and victims were unable to stand or to lie down. They were threatened with death until confessions or statements were signed.

3. Ten per cent of the prisoners who were followers and leaders in the Russian camps after attending "Antifa" schools stated that treatment was excellent and that housing facilities included beds, mattresses, and other comforts. Medical facilities were fair, food was plentiful, and working conditions excellent according to these prisoners.

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[Note: Source was an Austrian, a former member of the Wehrmact who was captured by the Russians in May 1945 and recently discharged from a Russian PW camp.]

. . . The Russians have so called "assistant police" for the camps consisting of previously captured Germans who are selected by the Russians during the war, and they are always . . . among the prisoners in order to spy upon them. They also thrash those prisoners who are to be punished.

All prisoners are required to fill out a questionnaire every time they are transferred to a new camp. The questionnaire consists of about forty questions. Included are: questions on vital statistics, on military service, political affiliations and activities, . . . on individually [owned] property, its extent and nature, and including the possessions of the individual's family. These [questionnaires] are compared; if any discrepancy exists, the prisoner in question is interrogated by a member of the NKVD.

\*Source: Hqs USFA, Office of the AC/S G-2, Special Weekly Rpt No. 7, 3 Dec 46, Part II, pp. 15 ff. (TS).

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PART TWO

\*Item 26 \*

[Note: Source was Soviet scientist who had been interned in Soviet prisons and camps for six years.]

[The source] summed up the methods of exerting influence during imprisonment on remand in the Soviet Union under the following four headings:

(a) Exertion of Physical Influence

- (1) Physical maltreatment during cross-examination without assistants.
- (2) Exertion of physical influence by systematic maltreatment with assistants.
- (3) Torture by thirst. Transfer from a cold-air cell into a hot-air cell and visa versa.
- (4) Cross-examination on a "conveyor." Several interrogators cross-examine the person concerned without interruption for ten to fifteen hours.
- (5) Torture with special instruments. Torture with special electric apparatus.
- (6) Threat of hanging or drowning. Partial carrying out of this threat but stoppage of the experiment shortly before death occurs.

\*Source: Com Nav For Govt, Intelligence Report, Serial 278-S-49, dtd 6 Jul 49. Evaluation B-3 (S)

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(b) Exertion of Psychic Influence

- (1) Cross-examination under the pretence of an amiable attitude. . . .
- (2) Intimidation of the source by threatening a particularly severe punishment.
- (3) Internment in a cell with the worst criminals.
- (4) Cross-examination by searchlight or in a cellar where internees are shot.
- (5) Fictitious shooting of internees.
- (6) Torture by uncertainty in solitary confinement up to fifteen months.

(c) Exertion of Moral Influence

- (1) Discrimination against friends and relatives in order to create hatred among them.
- (2) Threat of arrest of members of families or close friends; in harmless cases -- threat of dismissal from government service.
- (3) Torture of the children in the presence of the parents to obtain the desired statements.

(d) Hypnosis and Narcotics

- (1) individual hypnosis.
- (2) Chlorine Hydrate. Used for breaking down willpower. . .

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[Note: Source was former member of the Comintern]

I had to dwell long, long years in prison cells and in hard labor camps of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD]. And I had to go through most terrible experiences which can be known only by those people who have gone through investigations as state prisoners of Russia. During the investigations -- which lasted almost a year and a half -- I went through all grades of their methods of investigation, including the three grade investigation which includes disgusting physical masterings. [These] are so horrible that all the methods of the Inquisition of the middle ages were just child's play compared with the torture methods of the political police of the MVD of Bolshevik Russia . . . .

\*Source: Military Attache Report, Moscow, R-251-48, dtd 9 Aug 48, (S).

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The Case of Klara Kaufeld, a Sixteen-Year Old Student

[After the Russian occupation of Latvia following the invasion of Poland, this girl joined some of her fellow students in founding a nationally oriented student group. When they were betrayed, she was arrested by the NKVD.]

. . . I was interrogated by an NKVD man. He asked about our group, who has taught us our ideas, and who had turned us against the Soviet Union. I did not answer him. At first he was very friendly with me; later he yelled at me and threatened to lock me up and have me shot. I could hear a fellow student being interrogated in the next room. The NKVD man ordered me to sign a document written in Russian, but I refused.

After a while, a second, younger NKVD man came in, but I did not answer his questions either. Thereupon, he reached for his pistol and ordered me to undress immediately, else I would be shot on the spot. I had to walk back and forth in the room, stand with my face to the wall, return to the table, and finally stand against the wall again. His questions remained unanswered.

I don't know how long he continued to play this game with me. I was left alone for a while. After I had gotten

\*Source: Studies 6c and 6h, undated, in Anti-Komintern File, Abt. Sowjet - Union Archiv, EAP 116/87.

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dressed, I was taken downstairs, where an older NKVD man was waiting for me. He tried to get something out of me. When I did not reply to his questions either, he shouted at me, "Just wait, my little chick, you'll go to jail and then you'll never see the sun again!"

I was taken to a Riga jail and locked into a single cell on the upper floor. I remained there for almost three weeks. I was interrogated night after night. At eight o'clock in the evening, I was taken below by an NKVD man and usually not released until two or three o'clock in the morning. Time and again, I was asked about my fellow culprits and about the adults who were supposed to have engineered the whole matter. I had to get up at six o'clock in the morning, so that I could never sleep more than a few hours. I grew so weak that I could not even walk down the stairs. Several times I fainted.

At last I was taken back to NKVD headquarters. Again they tried in every conceivable way to get something out of me. I was interrogated by five NKVD men, four of whom were Jews. When I again refused to answer their questions, one of the Jews spat in my face and said that ~~one~~ of the other girls had already told him all he needed to know and he would release me this time. [After her release, she had to report three times a week to a female NKVD agent who each time read her a chapter of Communist literature.]

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The Case of Bruno Rungainis

. . . During the interrogation, names were frequently mentioned which were totally strange to me and I was asked whether I knew them. When evening came, I was taken to a dimly lit room where three women waited for me. They ordered me to take off my trousers and to lie down on the couch. I did not obey. Then the women came very close, and now I saw that all three were Jewish. One of them pulled my hair; another threatened me with a pistol and ordered me to cross my hands behind my back. They tied my hands very carefully, and then the three of them pushed me onto the couch. One lifted my feet onto the couch and tied them by the ankles. Then, all three began to torture me in various ways. They twisted my nose with their fingers, pulled my ears, tried to break my finger joints, spat in my eyes, held my mouth open with their fingers and spat into it, and brutally maltreated my genital organs. They did all sorts of silly things; they stuck a penholder into my anus; two of them sat on my body and started to knead me like dough. Then they stuck me all over with needles, but never too deeply. They argued into which part of my body they should put a bullet. Frequently they stepped over to the table in order to drink something. Later they raised one end of the couch so that I was placed into a semi-upright position. One of the Jewesses held my eyes wide open, another fitted a piece of glass between my

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lids so that I could not close my eyes. The light was turned off in the room. Immediately thereafter, a blinding floodlight was directed into my eyes. Then it became dark again; this was repeated about half a dozen times. Afterwards a dim light was turned on, and I was freed of the eye openers. Meanwhile they kept on asking me whether I wanted to confess or not. If not, they would torture me to death before morning. Laughing, all three of them left the room. After a moment, one of the Jewesses returned with a young woman who wore a mask over her face. After they had exchanged a few words in Russian, the Jewess left the room. Then the young woman approached me and asked me, in a low, commiserating tone of voice, "Bruno, are you here?" -- I told her that I did not know myself. She also began questioning me about my friends, but in a very friendly, merciful way. She advised me to confess everything; otherwise things would go badly with me. She asked me whether I was suffering. I replied that my bonds were hurting my hands and that I was very thirsty. She untied my hands, held a glass of water to my lips, and told me to drink the contents. Then she left after she had told me, in a friendly manner, that all would be well if only I would admit everything. . . In the morning. . . a Russian interrogated me with the help of an interpreter. Since he got nowhere, he told me to give the names of three nationally oriented persons and to report on certain other people; I would then be freed and

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richly rewarded. When I did not accept this proposal and did not name any three persons, I was threatened with death. Having accomplished nothing, they beat me and let me go. I had to certify over my signature that I had not been mistreated during the interrogation and that I would not under any circumstances tell anyone about my experiences. . . .

The Case of Colonel Peter Dzerve

. . . The colonel was led into a large room. "We won't hurt you," said the Armenian [an NKVD agent]. He [the colonel] would, however, have to admit all he knew about the anti-Soviet activities of two of his co-workers. The colonel coolly replied that he knew nothing about it. "Very well, we have excellent ways to make you talk," said one of the NKVD men. Upon his signal the Armenian led the colonel away. They stopped in a corridor at a booth built into the wall with barely enough room for a man to sit down in it. The NKVD man ordered the colonel to sit down, and out of the side wall of the booth he pulled a strong wooden beam which fitted like a bolt hard under the colonel's chin. "Do you want to talk now?" asked the Armenian. . . .

"I have nothing to say," the colonel replied. The next moment he saw his torturer getting out a strange wooden instrument holding a needle about two inches long. Then the Armenian dealt the colonel's skull one quick, forceful blow. The latter

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felt a terrible rush of pain; the fiend had hammered the needle deep into the top of the colonel's skull.

"I warned you," the torturer said, "not to be stubborn. I can push this needle deep enough into your brain to make you insane for life." And the monster continued to work the needle deeper into his victim's skull. The colonel, however, was silent. Only faintly he felt a new stab of pain -- the Armenian had pulled the needle out again. Then the colonel sat in the darkness of the closed booth. Gradually, he grew aware of the fact that he was experiencing more and more difficulty in breathing. He could not get any air, tried to cry out, but could not utter a word. The NKVD fiends had locked him into a torture chamber equipped in such a fashion that the air could be pumped in and out at random. When the colonel was about to pass out, his tormentors pumped the booth up again to a super-normal pressure. Four times they repeated this ghastly change from suffocation to strangulation.

The colonel did not know how many hours had passed when he staggered from the booth covered with blood and dull and indifferent to pain. . .

### Cigarette Case as Torture Instrument

[From the testimony of a Latvian who was hospitalized for a long time as a result of tortures he suffered at the hands of the NKVD.]

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. . . The first interrogation lasted seventeen hours without interruption. I was accused of espionage and ordered to make a confession and to name my alleged fellow-culprits. When I rejected the unfounded accusation, I was taken to another room and interrogated again by an NKVD man. A second NKVD man carrying an iron rod with a sharp point was present at the questioning. He frequently interrupted with the question: "Shall I stab him or will he confess after all?" A third NKVD man threatened to beat me with a length of rope if I did not confess. A fourth threatened me with a pistol. When I met all orders and threats with silence, all four pounced on me and beat me about the head with their fists. Beaten bloody, I was brought to the Central Prison and put in solitary confinement. The next evening I was again taken to NKVD Headquarters and was again beaten in the course of the interrogation . . . In the course of these six days, I got nothing to eat and **not** a drop to drink. Only on the sixth day, when I was already completely exhausted, two herrings and half a loaf of white bread were placed into my cell in the prison. As a matter of precaution, I ate only the bread since I had to assume that after eating the salty herrings I still would not get any water for my thirst.

A day later I was to be taken to NKVD Headquarters again. I refused to go and was punished with three days of more severe confinement. I had to sleep in my underwear on the cold floor

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of a narrow, damp and unheated cell. My rations consisted of a little more than half a pound of bread and a pint of water. . . . Again I was taken to the NKVD and beaten unmercifully. I had to get undressed and was then wrapped in a wet sheet. I was tied to a bench and beaten with rubber truncheons. Those tortured in this manner were then locked for a day into the coldest cell in the prison. I was no exception.

[To escape his tormentors, this man pretended to accept a job as informer with the NKVD. When the pretense was discovered, he was rearrested and tortured nearly every day for two months.]

. . . A Jew stuck a needle in my throat and stabbed my hands with a pocket knife, whereby he sneered at me and remarked that I had to lose a little blood. He also beat me over the head with the butt of a heavy pistol. In the course of another interrogation, the interrogator . . . offered me a cigarette from a metal cigarette case. When I reached for the cigarette, he suddenly shut the case, and my fingers were caught between the sharp teeth inside. The interrogator now opened the case in order to remove the skin that had been torn from the fingers. Only then I realized that the case was specially constructed for this torture. For good measure, the NKVD men rubbed my bleeding fingers with salt. When this interrogation did not bring any results, either, I was locked into a small, narrow, and hermetically sealed cell in which I could only stand up. Hot air was

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now pumped into this cell. When I was close to fainting, fresh air was blown in again. This torture was continued for about 48 hours. But this was not the end of my torments. My arms were crossed and tied together, my knees pulled up, and a stick passed between my arms and knees. NKVD men held the stick by the two ends and kept on slamming me to the floor in this painful position until my kidneys had been knocked loose. . . . [Some time later, this man was placed on a shipment to Russia, but managed to escape from the transport.]

#### The Torture Hat

. . . If anyone did not immediately agree to make a confession, he was lifted with the so-called torture hat. This hat was placed around his head and fastened at the neck under the chin. A suspension device made it possible to hang the pitiable victim from a hook in the wall until he declared himself willing to confess.

#### The Fingernail Torture

[The NKVD seems to have employed a team of specialists for this particular form of torture.]

. . . The Jew recounted how he had cut the flesh around the nails with a sharp knife and then slowly drawn the nail from the victim's finger with a pair of pliers. At that moment the hands of the prisoners were held by other Jewish men. The victim had screamed horribly, and most of them had confessed.

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"Pulling Off the Glove"

. . . [The body of] Dr. Struve was examined in Duenaburg, and it was observed that the doctor's arms had been tied and the "gloves" pulled off. This means that while he was still living, his hands had been placed into boiling water and afterwards the scalded skin had been pulled off them. Nails had been driven into the soles of his feet, and his tongue had been cut out. . .

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Item 29 \*

[Note: The entire article from which this is taken is an excellent dissertation on the Soviet technique of gaining confessions prior to trials. Significant excerpts from the article follow.]

. . . . Dr. Anton Ciliga, a former Yugoslavian Communist arrested by the GPU in 1930 . . . said: "It is the general rule of the GPU to call arrested persons for examination during the night; a sleepy man is less concentrated, less prepared to resist. Psychology is the favourite science of the policemen of the GPU." . . . The favorite opening questions of the investigator are: "You know why you have been arrested? No, you don't know? Well, then, why do you suppose?" Later he was astonished to learn that these were precisely the questions usually put to arrested persons by the examiners of the Inquisition.

. . . . As has been seen from analysing the Moscow Trials, . . . those who do appear in public must show no traces of open violence, and the process of breaking them down is a relatively lengthy one, ranging from five weeks to eight months or longer; but for those whom it is not intended the outside world shall ever see, speedier methods may be applied. And these speedier methods may be used in order to undermine the morale of the others. . . .

\*Source: "The Technique of Soviet Interrogation" in Monthly Intelligence Report (United Kingdom Armed Forces publication), dtd June 1949.

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. . . But this "indirect" pressure is of little importance beside the very direct pressure brought to bear upon the accused who are reserved for the role of public confession of their sins. Vyshinsky himself pointed out during the Moscow Trials that there were other means of torture besides the obvious ones. He himself mentioned the effectiveness of depriving a man of sleep. Perhaps the most detailed and telling evidence regarding the "softening up" process has been given by one of the members of the Polish underground fight against Hitler. Under the pretense of reaching a political agreement with this movement, the Soviet Government induced fifteen of its leaders to go to Russia in 1945, whereupon they were immediately arrested. . . . Only one failed to "confess." [One Pole who escaped described his experiences as follows.]

. . . The means of mechanical "pressure" at the disposal of the investigators are, this Pole asserts, simple but extremely effective. They are -- in addition to lack of sleep -- light, hunger, cold, and an atmosphere of terror. Day and night a glaring light burned in the prisoner's cell. If the prisoner fell asleep and turned his head from the light, the warder entered and whispered: "You are not allowed to sleep like that. I must see your eyes." There was no way for him to escape the torture of this merciless light. The cell was always kept at a low temperature, not freezingly cold, but cold enough to cause

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the exhausted and half-starved man the most acute physical distress. He had one blanket and was not allowed at any time to put his hand beneath it; if he did so the warder would enter and gently replace them outside the cover. . . . In the Lubianka Prison . . . absolute silence reigns, and the prisoners know that they are utterly alone. Silence, light, cold, hunger -- the food is always well prepared and appetisingly served and is just enough to keep them as hungry as ravenous beasts -- these are the elemental and terrible forces used for the "softening up" process. The psychological probing into the character, the will, the likes and dislikes, the ambitions and the weaknesses of the victim; the monotonous, relentless questioning hour after hour; the promises alternating with menaces; the confrontations of the accused with fellow prisoners already broken; the displaying upon the examiners' table of personal belongings taken from those nearest and dearest to him -- all this must be realized against the background of silence, sleeplessness, hunger, cold. These proceedings lasted seventy days, during which the prisoner was interrogated 141 times for periods varying from three to fifteen hours without respite.

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Item 30 \*

[Note: A Russian displaced person, an economic expert, was persuaded to go to the Soviet Union as a writer but was arrested upon arrival in Russia.]

. . . A few days later I was taken to be interrogated. For six days I was not permitted to sleep, was beaten . . . and insulted. You see my face. They called me an American spy and demanded that I confess. When I had breath enough to speak, I said that I had nothing to confess and asked about my wife. "She will get what's coming to her, too," said the officer.

\*Source: USPA Special Weekly Rpt, No. 33, dtd 3 July 47, II, p. 7, (S)

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Item 31

[Note: Source is a Hungarian veterinarian who fled to USSR - controlled Poland in 1940 and was arrested for illegal entry and sentenced to forced labor.]

. . . I was arrested by the NKVD. They took me to a prison. There is usually not more than one year between arrest and sentencing. In this one year, the Russian prison is so strong, so primitive, that it destroys you physically and psychologically. . . . After a few months in the prison you think about nothing human any more -- only food. There is a great relapse in your physical condition, for in a room of about 12x14 feet there are 44 people. . . . During this time there is frequent interrogation, especially during the night. In the prison, the political and criminal prisoners are together. . . . During the interrogation, you are charged with your paragraph and if the NKVD does not get good information from you, you are sent into solitary confinement. I was not beaten by the NKVD, but the other prisoners in my cell came back in the morning black and blue. . . . I was not beaten myself, and the other prisoners would not talk about it. In this prison, you spend no longer than a year. When the interrogation is finished, you get the sentence through the Troika; that is, the NKVD court. This Troika consists of three soldiers -- one officer and two

\*Source: CIA, Rpt. No. 00-I-131, dtd 27 Jan 48, sub: Interrogation and Sentencing of Prisoners. (C).

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sergeants. The determination of the sentence takes only two minutes. . . . An old friend of mine, a veterinarian, was accused because many horses in his enterprise died. They called it economic agitation against the Soviet. He was interrogated for six days by many officers. He did not confess, but on the seventh day he fell asleep in the room where they were interrogating him. When he woke up, he found that he had signed a confession. . . .

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A world-famous Soviet academician was arrested in Yagoda's time. He could not bring himself to confess that he was anti-Soviet. He had not yet been accused of anything else. After questioning him on his grand-parents, the investigator turned to his own life. He asked him to list all the foreign scientific societies or foreign academies of sciences of which he was an honorary member. Each time the academician named a society the investigator would jot it down and spit in the 70-year old academician's face or grey beard. . . . He walked to the next interrogation like one doomed but returned radiant and contented. He had been interrogated by another investigator, "a reliable and intelligent person." The investigator began excusing himself to the academician for the unworthiness of the preceding interrogation, declaring that the other investigator was punished and that the NKVD did not doubt the academician's loyalty. "But in order to release you, we need proof of your loyalty." Then the conversation turned to the academician's arrival abroad to attend a world-wide scientific conference in Paris. Here the investigator demanded as proof of loyalty evidence that Leon Blum himself had recruited the academician as a spy during that time, saying this was needed not as material against him but "to compromise the coalition

\*Source: CIA, Rpt No. 00 - B - 9037. dtd 14 Dec 48, sub: Vorkuta Concentration Camp, (C).

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government of the people's front led by Blum." The investigator's reasoning was sufficiently convincing for this academician and he signed a confession that Blum personally recruited him as a spy! . . . I have heard what happened after that.

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Item 33\*

[Note: Michael Shipkov was a Bulgarian citizen employed by the United States Legation in Sofia as a translator. He was suddenly arrested on 20 Aug 1949, questioned and tortured for 32 uninterrupted hours and brought to the point where he signed a full confession of spying and sabotage and an agreement to return to the legation as a spy for the Bulgarian Security Militia.]

"I was ordered to stand facing the wall upright at a distance which allowed me to touch the wall with two fingers of my outstretched arms," he wrote. "Then to step back some twelve inches, keep my heels touching the floor, and maintain balance only with the contact of one finger on each hand. And while standing so, the interrogation continued -- nor was I allowed to collect my thoughts."

"This posture does not appear unduly painful, nor did it particularly impress me in the beginning. An yet, combined with the mental strain, with the continuous pressure to talk, with the utter hopelessness and the longing to get through the thing and be sent down into silence and peace -- it is a very effective manner of breaking down all resistance.

"I recall that the muscles on my legs and shoulders began to get cramped and to tremble, and that my two fingers

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Source: "How Reds Get Confessions Revealed to U.S. by Victim," New York Times, 5 Mar 50, pp. 1 and 49.

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began to bend down under the pressure, to get red all over and to ache; I remember that I was drenched with sweat and that I began to faint, although I had not exerted myself in any way. If I would try to substitute the forefinger to the big finger, I would instantly be called to order and the same if I tried to bolster my middle finger by placing the forefinger over it. No attention is paid to the suffering, nor is there any place for hope that they would take pity on you. And when the trembling increases up to the point when I collapsed, they made me sit and speak. I did get several minutes' respite, catching my breath and wiping my face, but when I had uttered again that I was innocent, it was the wall again."

So it continued. . . .He would attempt to relieve the tension and satisfy the questioners, who worked in teams to allow him no rest, by confession to small things, even to spying and treason -- anything to be sent back again to his cell to await his punishment.

"Out of the jumbled memories," wrote Mr. Shipkov, "some of the impressions stand out vividly."

"One; They are not over-interested in what you tell them. It would appear that the ultimate purpose of this treatment is to break you down completely and deprive you of any will power or private thought or self-esteem, which

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they achieve remarkably quickly . . . ."

"Second: I rarely could perceive any personal hatred or enmity for me -- a contempt certainly, but sooner an academic, detached feeling with an annoying problem in order to achieve the goal, and a fanatic, rabid obsession of devotion to communism and hatred for Anglo-American resistance to them -- all the newspaper talk is to them gospel truth."

The State Department called attention to the fact that Mr. Shipkov had been forced to "build out of his own imagination details of meetings with American and other officials and other acts which the militia would interpret as espionage and treason, which in reality never took place."

The Department also pointed out that Mr. Shipkov had not been crushed to submission by the thirty-two-hour questioning alone. For months even before his arrest, . . . "he was afflicted with a feeling of oppression, fear and resignation, owing to the steady pressures exerted by the Militia on his sisters, his brothers and his colleagues in the American Legation, particularly Ivan Secoulov, who had just died."

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Item 34\*

[Note: Source was Czechoslovakian.]

An STB [Czech Secret Police] interrogation may include four stages:

(a) Verbal questioning, accompanied by cross-examination in the presence of four or five persons. If physical violence is employed at this stage, it does not go beyond blows of the fist:

(b) The legs of the accused are so beaten that he must be carried to his cell;

(c) The prisoner is usually bound and blindfolded and pins are driven under the fingernails; and

(d) Injections are employed to weaken the nerve centers.

\*

Source: CIA Information Rpt No. 00 B - 9281 - 49, dtd Aug 49, (S).

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USFA Special Biweekly Report No. 106, 9 Dec 1949, Part II, pp 6-7 (S). Subject: Interrogation Methods of the Hungarian AVO (Secret Police).

. . .Source was arrested. . .on 27 November 1948 in Budapest. . . Upon arrival at AVO headquarters, he was taken to the basement and locked up with twelve other prisoners. He was left there without food or water until 0800, 29 November 1948, when he was first taken to an interrogation room. . . where two interrogators received him. . . Source was told to stand facing the wall. He was compelled to remain in this position until 1600. Having had no food or water for the past two days, he was at this time on the verge of collapse. He was then seated facing the interrogators desk and the interrogation started. . . Source gave a detailed account of his work schedule. . . and told the interrogators that the charges against him were false, whereupon he was struck in the face by one of the interrogators. He collapsed completely and lost consciousness. He was revived after one of the interrogators threw a pail of water on him.

At 1900, Source was once more taken to a cell. . . . The dimensions of the cell were 1 1/2x2x2 1/2 meters. . . .

\*

Source: USFA Special Biweekly Rpt, No. 106, dtd 9 Dec 49, sub: Interrogation Methods of the Hungarian AVO (Secret Police), (S), Part II, pp 6-7.

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It was completely dark. There were three other prisoners in the cell. . . . The floor was damp as there was no heat.

At 1900, 30 November, Source was once more taken to the interrogation room and interrogated until 1200. During this time he was not molested, but was made to remain standing before the interrogator's desk and every half hour only one question was asked by the interrogator. During the interval, the interrogator would leave the room. Upon completion of this interrogation, Source was returned to his cell.

On 31 November, Source was interrogated for the third time. This time the interrogator told him to sign a statement indicating that he was treated very well during his confinement. The interrogator was very polite and told Source that nothing would happen to him if he would sign the statement. Source signed. . . and thereafter was taken by automobile to Buda Del Internment Camp. . .[where] he remained for 72 days.

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. . . Source and his brother were arrested at 1530 on 15 July 1948 at their place of business. . . . They were questioned under strong lights by Security Police Capt. Vasile L. Veis from 1900 to 2400 and then double--timed back to their cells until 0200 [16 July] when they were again questioned until 0400.

During the questioning, Source and his brother were forced to sign six or more typewritten statements which were read to them by a secretary. Mistakes are purposely made in the typing and a complete new statement is prepared by reinterrogation and the subject is again forced to sign. This is done to find discrepancies in the statements and to break the will of the accused. The lights were so bright that they could not read the statements and so could not know what they were signing. Source was served very salty food during the interrogation, but was given no water to drink. . .

During his imprisonment, Source heard from other prisoners that three priests. . . were also imprisoned . . . and were beaten and tortured until they signed a confession that they had committed the alleged acts and were sentenced to from three to six years imprisonment. . . . Father Alachi was

\*  
Source: USFA Special Biweekly Rpt. No. 105, dtd 25 Nov 49, sub: Mistreatment of Suspects by the Romanian Security Police, Part II, Romania, pp 6-7.

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confined for three days in a cell with one meter of water in it. During this time he could not sit or lie but was compelled to remain standing.

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Source was arrested by a Security Police agent at 1200, 19 May 1948, . . . and taken to the Security Police Headquarters . . . where he was put incommunicado in cell No. 5 where he remained for two days without food, water, or toilet facilities. He was told by the prison guards that if he relieved himself, he would be forced to consume it. . . .

At 0900, 11 May 1948, Source was taken to an interrogation room where he was confronted by the agent who had arrested him [and four interrogators]. . . . For the next ten or fifteen minutes [the four interrogators] slapped and kicked him from one to the other. After that, since he did not admit anything, Source was forced to squat down while his hands were tied over his knees, then a stick was inserted under his knees and arms. The two ends of the stick were lifted and supported between two tables, causing Source to hang in an upside down position. His shoes and socks were removed and the soles of his feet were beaten for about ten minutes with a stick. During this time, Lt. M --- kept asking Source if he was willing to confess. Because he was exhausted from the beating, Source stated that he was willing to confess.

\*

Source: USFA Special Biweekly Rpt No. 109, dtd 29 Jan 50, sub: Security Police Interrogation Methods, (S), Part II Romania, pp 5-6.

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Source was an active member of the "Actia Catholica," . . . .  
On 2 January 1949, Source, as well as many of the leading personalities of the "Actia Catholica," was arrested in simultaneous raids in Budapest and Goyer.

Source was immediately brought to the headquarters of the State Security Police in Budapest. . . . and interrogated on the same night. . . . In charge of the interrogation was a police captain, while seven male and two female plain-clothes police officers were present. The first question put to Source was whether he knew why he had been arrested. [Source told a previously fabricated cover story.] . . . Source was given five minutes to change his mind. He insisted, however, that he had told the truth, whereupon the police began to mistreat him. . . .

For approximately half an hour, Source was beaten in his face with hands and fists. Since he still refused to talk, he was hit on his hands and arms with rubber truncheons for about ten minutes. Source still refused to talk, whereupon his trousers, shoes and socks were removed and he was made to lay down on his stomach and to raise his feet. Two men then stood on his right and left side and beat the soles of his feet and his shin-bones with rubber truncheons. This produced terrible

\*Source: USFA Special Biweekly Rpt, No. 11, dtd 16 Sep 49, sub: Maltreatment of Hungarian Political Prisoners, Part II, pp. 15 ff.

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pains and Source began to cry out loudly, whereupon the men took a rope and bound his hands and feet together behind his back. In addition, his mouth was gagged so he could not cry out. The rope binding his hands and legs was laid through a pulley attached to the ceiling of the room and Source was pulled up, his arms and legs carrying the whole weight of his body. The police then began to beat him until he lost consciousness. He came to in a bath room where cold water was poured over him. He was able only to crawl but was made to return to room No. 27 and asked if he was willing to make a statement now. Source insisted that he had nothing to add to his previous statements, whereupon he was again beaten in the face. He was then forced to undress completely and all but two policemen left the room. He was made to assume a squatting position. He was given an unloaded rifle and forced to hold this in his outstretched hands. In the meantime, the two women returned and amused themselves by kicking him with their feet and beating him on the head, hands, and back with rubber truncheons. When he was unable to hold the rifle any longer, he was told that he was sabotaging the police efforts and was hit on the neck with a ruler. Source was unable to state how long he had to maintain this position. . . . When he refused to make any admissions, he had to stand on his toes facing the wall. While he maintained this position, his interrogators had their breakfast. . . . He was again beaten and put into a cell two floors below ground level. I had no

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windows or light, the walls were wet, and it was furnished only with wooden planks. . . . Source and other prisoners were made to report their prison numbers to the policemen every five minutes through the door so that it was impossible for them to rest or relax at any time. Anyone who did not report in time was immediately beaten.

Source was left in this condition without food for about 24 hours, and the next morning was taken . . . to the interrogation room. He was first informed that anything that had happened to him up to that time was only the beginning and that the police had other measures at their disposal to make him talk. Source . . . thereupon decided to tell the truth.

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Immediately upon arrival at Budaors and before any interrogation had been attempted, Rajk was subjected to the torture known as "softening the teeth." This consists in deep drilling of all the teeth after which the victim's mouth is stuffed with temporary dental filling. The prisoner is then left for a couple of hours with the sensation that his skull is bursting and that he is suffocating. In the sixty hours he spent at Budaors, Rajk four times attempted suicide.

\*Source: CIA Information Rpt, No. 00-B-9315-49, Sep 49, sub: Arrest and Rajk (Hungary), (S).

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[Note: Source was a retired Czech colonel, refuge.]

. . . Some prisoners are held in solitary confinement during the whole period of their imprisonment by the STB or OBZ, others only until they "confess." Prominent political prisoners sometimes remain in solitary confinement even after their "confession" or when already transferred to the court's custody. . . .

To obtain confession of crimes that the prisoners never knew existed and to induce the prisoner to incriminate other people, the prisoner is "de-personalized" by a combination of physical and psychological terror or drugs. The different phases of this processing complement each other. During the first months of communist rule in Czechoslovakia, the secret police agents and examiners used only the elementary methods of brutality, such as slapping and kicking. By 1949, training in MVD-sponsored courses resulted in improved methods of treatment and psychological terror.

. . . The prisoner is made to elaborate on his confession under the threat of physical torture. He is lured by promises of better treatment or release. . . . Prisoners are influenced by the sounds coming from tortured persons in neighboring cells separated by thin walls.

\*Source: ID, EUCOM WDGS Inf Rpt, dtd 5 April 50, sub: Czech Interrogation Methods, (S)

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[The following outline consists of excerpts under the heading, "Physical Terror."]

a. Before Interrogation

Physical breakdown of important prisoners is accomplished by the following phases of torture:

(1) Prisoner's hands and legs are bound to a chair.

The chair is pushed close to an overheated radiator or other central heating device. The prisoner is blindfolded. Alone for many hours, the prisoner's nerves are in constant tension, awaiting interrogation or other torture. He is compelled to urinate in this position and is ridiculed later.

(2) After this procedure, he is beaten and kicked.

(3) Then he is sent to a solitary cell and compelled to walk constantly. After spending a whole night bound to a chair, being beaten and kicked, and then given the compulsory walking exercise, from 0600 to 2100, the prisoner is near physical exhaustion.

(4) The night before the interrogation, the prisoner is awakened by guards every half hour.

(5) Before the interrogation, the prisoner is starved completely or given an over-salted and spiced meal.

(6) Called to the interrogation, he is first placed at attention facing the wall for long hours, sometimes

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with hands lifted over the head.

b. During Interrogation

(1) If the prisoner cannot stand in position (6) above as long as expected, he is kicked or his head is pushed against the wall. Occasional slapping and beating is part of the interrogation. The prisoner is made to stand against a brilliantly lighted, whitewashed wall.

(2) Even when the prisoner makes his confession and signs the prefabricated "final protocol," he is not left in peace. He is called again and again to further interrogations and made to repeat the details of his confession until he knows them by heart.

(3) Later he is confronted with other co-defendants, and once more he has to repeat the incriminations stated in his confession. Thus the conviction of prisoners is made "genuine."

(4) If the prisoner denies his guilt and refuses to incriminate unknown persons, he is sent back to solitary confinement and starved. In an extremely cold or warm cell he is made to walk 15 hours daily. Then the same method of interrogation is applied, this time more brutal. In some cases teeth are kicked out of the mouth during beatings. The average prisoner can be made to succumb through repeated brutality, fatigue and fear of further torture. He realizes the hopelessness of fight when he sees that he is convicted by his friends and co-defendants

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. . . . The prisoner considers his resistance as futile and detrimental to his survival.

(5) Special methods are used for the most stubborn prisoners or for persons who realize that a signed "confession" would permit any tribunal to condemn them legally to death:

(a) The prisoner is partially undressed and is beaten on his bare feet with sand-filled cudgels, clubs, or water-soaked towels. . . .

(b) Prisoner's buttocks and the section of the body over the kidneys are beaten as above.

(c) Pins and other metallic objects are run into fingers and toes close to the nails.

(d) Women's breasts and other parts of the body are burned with cigarettes.

(e) Men's sexual organs are twisted by special pincers and beaten.

(f) Strangling of prisoner in order to force a confession is frequent.

(g) Prisoner's hands are bound to his legs behind the body and he is then lifted and affixed to a trapeze.

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The accused prisoner . . . is taken from his cell during the night and made to stand at attention facing a white wall for from six to ten hours. He is then interrogated by several persons whom he is not permitted to see. In the course of the interrogation, he is told what he must say before the court and how he is to act. The prisoner is neither beaten nor tortured during the interrogation. After a period of confinement, and if several interrogations have been unsuccessful, the prisoner is allegedly given two or three pills of the drug Aktedron. This narcotic makes it impossible for the prisoner to sleep, and he becomes extremely nervous and restless. Two or three days later, the prisoner is given an ice-water enema. This chills the prisoner thoroughly, causes acute diarrhea, and brings him to the verge of exhaustion. The next step is an injection of Scopolamine, resulting in an almost complete loss of memory. This injection is followed by a dosage of the drug Meskal also believed to be given by injection. This drug makes it possible for the victim to remember only what is told him while under its influence. The prisoner is now given a typewritten draft of his "confession." A reading of this manuscript results in an immediate retention of its contents. Inasmuch as his Scopolamine induced amnesia has caused him to forget everything else, the

\*Source: USFA Report No. 104, 11 Nov 49, (S), Part II, p 1.

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accused can only repeat his "confession" in a parrot-like manner. It is therefore important that, while making his confession, the prisoner is actually under the impression that he is telling the truth.

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APPENDIX VII

Item 1

Instructions Concerning the  
Interrogation of Prisoners  
of War # 40

Questionnaire for the Interrogation of Prisoners of War

Headquarters \_\_\_\_\_ (Division, Corps, Regiment)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Location on Map \_\_\_\_\_

1. Last name, first name, civilian occupation, place of birth, military occupation, rank, age, nationality, draftee or volunteer, where and when captured?
2. Unit? (Question the prisoner until you determine the highest echelon unit known to him.)
3. When and where did the unit come from? Where is it located? What is its strength? What unit did it relieve on arrival? What is its mission?
4. Location of command and observation posts?
5. Name, rank, and description of officers?
6. Adjacent units? Their location, strength, missions? Location of reserves?
7. Location and number of machine guns, mortars, antitank guns, infantry howitzers (known to the prisoner or seen by him)? Strength of reserves? Data on defensive installations (nature of antipersonnel and antitank obstacles, location of first line of defense, description of trenches, what other fortifications, minefields)?

\* Source: Questionnaire, undated, in Miscellaneous G-2 File of LIV Corps, Verschiedenes, Gefangenen und Ueberlaeuferaussagen, 25.III. - 20.VI.42. The original questionnaire was found in the dispatch case of a Russian officer. The German translation is part of this file.

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8. Location and number of tanks, artillery, chemical warfare, and motorized units, new weapons (caliber and technical details)?
  9. Location of air fields and terrain suitable for air landing operations? What air force units and how many aircraft at these bases?
  10. Location of rear area service units?
  11. What losses has the unit suffered? How is the supply, food, equipment, and clothing situation? When and where do replacements come from, and in what numbers?
  12. How is the morale of the troops? What do the officers tell them? What is the attitude of officers and men toward the war? Toward one another?
  13. The mood of the civilian population?
  14. What are the German impressions of the performance of our armed forces (aircraft, tanks, artillery, infantry, cavalry)?
  15. Credibility of the above statements? Take into consideration the prisoner's social level and background, his willingness to testify, nationality, state of exhaustion, and depression.
  16. Additional questions.

The above statements were obtained from

P.O.W. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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APPENDIX VII

Item 2\*

Annex 5 to: HQ XX Corps  
G-2 Section No. 5820/41  
Confidential, 17 Dec 41

Questionnaire for the Interrogation of Prisoners of War

(Translation of Captured Russian Questionnaire)

1. Name of the battalion commander.
2. Equipment of the company, losses in materiel, year when the equipment was manufactured, reserves.
3. Which sector does the company defend? What are the company missions? How is the observation post organized?
4. Where is the battalion located? What are its missions? What units are adjacent?
5. What is the location of the various headquarters? What security measures have been taken for their protection? What units build the dugouts?
6. Where is battalion headquarters located? Company command post? Battalion guard?
7. What is the strength of the company? What parts of Germany or what other countries do the men come from? What is their average age? Where do the replacements come from? Details concerning the replacement system.
8. How many officers, noncommissioned officers, and men are in the company?
9. How many and what sort of acts of misconduct have occurred lately? How are they punished? Do instances of drunkenness occur?

\* Source: Questionnaire, dtd 17 Dec 41, in G-2 File of 292d Infantry Division, Ic-Eingaenuebergeordneter Dienststellen, 21.VI - 27.XII.41. The German translation of the Russian original is part of this file and has been translated here.

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10. What orders have been issued in the last few days?
11. How is the relationship between officers, noncommissioned officers, and men?
12. Has anyone refused to obey an order?
13. Are orders carried out conscientiously and promptly?
14. Are reconnaissance patrols dispatched into [Soviet] territory behind our lines?
15. What do the German soldiers fear most?
16. How is the company quartered and where does it spend the night?
17. How are the guards detailed at night?
18. Who is allowed to pass through the guard? How are they challenged?
19. How do the German soldiers adapt themselves to cold and snow? What do they say about the weather conditions?
20. How are the officers and enlisted men dressed?
21. Do the officers mention skis? Have they received any?
22. What do the officers and men think of the partisans? Have the partisans inflicted any damage?
23. How are the relations between the soldiers and the civilian population?
24. What is being said about attacks?
25. When do the officers think they will be in Moscow?
26. Why did the German troops withdraw a few days ago?
27. Why did the Germans leave guns, tanks, ammunition, etc. behind?
28. Are any soldiers missing? If so, how do the officers interpret it?
29. How are rations and clothing? Does illness occur? Are drugs and medicine available? Are there any delousing and bathing facilities?

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30. To what social class does the prisoner belong? Economic position, occupation, family?
31. What benefits has he derived from the Hitler regime?
32. What allotments does his family receive?
33. What relatives of his serve in the Armed Forces?
34. Have any of his relatives or acquaintances been killed or wounded?
35. Is he a member of the Party? [Nazi Party]
36. What literature has he read? What newspapers and periodicals does he receive?
37. What is his religion? How often does he go to church?
38. What religious guidance is given to the troops?
39. What are the political activities in the company and regiment? Who is in charge of political activity?
40. How is the sexual problem being solved? What educational measures are being taken in this respect?
41. What sense do the soldiers make of this war?
42. What do the soldiers think of the conquest (occupation) of France, Greece, Norway, and other countries?
43. What reasons are advanced for Germany's war against the Soviet Union?
44. What does this war have to offer the soldiers -- now and in the future?

A True Copy                      Corps HQ, 17 Dec 41

(Signature illegible)  
1st Lieutenant

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Documentary Excerpts:  
Soviet Methods of Interrogating  
Japanese Prisoners of War

[The information for the reports was based in interrogation of selected Japanese who were being repatriated during the latter part of 1949 from the Soviet Union after having been held in Soviet prisoner-of-war camps for about four years. Some discrepancies appear in the reports, but these reflect the fact that methods employed by Russian interrogators were different in various areas; violence was used often by interrogators in Manchuria but only occasionally in Siberia.]

-----  
Item 1

[This report presents the views of two well qualified repatriates.]

1. This report is based on research conducted at the Maizuru Repatriation Center in regards to the Soviet methods of interrogation. . . .

a. It is true that a large number of repatriates were investigated by the Russian authorities regarding their personal and military history. However, with the exception of the personnel in the category mentioned in paragraph "c" below, who have not been repatriated, these investigations for the most part appeared routine and general in nature. . . .

b. The overall strength of the Japanese units was not investigated by the Soviet authorities. All PWs were required to complete history forms which were collected and carefully screened by trained Russian Army personnel. These forms enabled the Soviet authorities to select and later segregate certain PWs for thorough investigation. Where this form proved inadequate in providing pertinent information, extensive use of PW informants was made to fill the gap.

c. Former field grade officers and above, Military Police, Special Service, Intelligence, Signal, Border Guard, specialists in such fields as aviation, electronics, bacteriology, chemical warfare, graduates of language schools specializing in Russian, and those suspected [of] being in any of these categories were investigated by the Russian authorities. . . .

WEC  
\*Reference: T/I, G-2, GHQ, Report No. TB-2384 #4578, dtd 1 Oct 49 and Report No. TB-47-50 dtd 18 Jan 50, Sub: Historical Study on Russian Methods of Interrogating Captured Personnel, (S). [Item 1 is from Report No. TB 2384 #4578; items 2-19 from Report No. TB-47-50.]



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- (7) All PWs under investigation are made to swear that . . . statements made by them are true by signing their name at the bottom of the report. In some instances, the reports are deliberately distorted and falsified by the investigators who take advantage of the PWs who do not understand Russian language.
- (8) Type of questions depend on the prisoner's background, and, for the most part, answers given to routine questionnaires on the prisoner's military history are clarified.
- (9) Extensive use of PW informants is made by the Russians, who use threats, coercion, and promises of better treatment to exact information.
- (10) . . . .
- (11) . . . .
- (12) It appears that the great majority of the investigating officers are usually second Junior lieutenants or senior lieutenants -- probably due to low priority investigation. In no instances were enlisted men used. Some of the investigating officers spoke Japanese; however, most of them required an interpreter, usually another Russian officer, or in extreme cases PW interpreter. In one instance, a female interpreter, a graduate of the language school in LENINGRAD [sic], interpreted for a senior lieutenant.
- (13) Officers from various sections appeared to conduct the investigations. Although the repatriate's statements were ambiguous, it is believed that investigations were conducted largely by MVD officers. . . .

Item 2

[A Japanese repatriate, who had been compelled to work as an interpreter for the Soviet Investigation Section (Ochyo) in a prisoner-of-war camp at Nakodka, made a voluntary report for American officials in the form of a dialogue which he purports to be typical of the Soviet interrogations at which he was present. It will be noted that this interrogation of a Japanese prisoner contains a number of elements common to what has been learned about interrogations of German prisoners -- emphasis on political matters, threats of non-repatriation, cross-examination on minor points in an attempt to find discrepancies, frequent accusations that the prisoner is lying, attempts to discover names of prisoners formerly connected with military intelligence. The report, therefore, is reproduced here in its entirety.]

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"A" - Soldier of the 11th Air Intelligence Regiment (Air Group)

"B" - Soviet Interrogator

Q - (Name, age, registered domicile, occupation, and personal history are asked according to form.)

It is four years since the war ended. At this date our purpose of interrogating you is not to investigate and punish you, or anything of that nature. You merely carried out the orders of your superiors. Our purpose, at this time when America is trying to start a Third World War, is to appeal to the peoples of the world the brutality of war, to create opposition to war, and to examine thoroughly the intelligence organization of the Japanese Fascist Army for future reference. You probably know that the Japanese monopoly "Zaibatsu" and "Militarists" are organizing an army of police for the next war. If you are a democrat and a lover of peace, tell us all you know for the sake of strengthening the democratic front.

A - Yes. I will tell you all I know.

Q - Very well. Then do you know that if you withhold information or make false statements you will be punished with a maximum of three years imprisonment under the Soviet Code, Article 95. (Sometimes the interrogators say maximum of five years, and other times two years.)

A - I understand.

Q - Very well. Then sign your name here. (Prisoner of war signs paper bearing Article 95.) What were your duties as an Air Force intelligence soldier?

A - I was an ordinary soldier.

Q - I know that. What kind of work did you do?

A - In the company, drill and fatigue duty; and every two or four months relieved the observation party at the border.

Q - What did you do there?

A - Observed Soviet aircraft from an observation tower [with aid of] glasses. (As though the formations of regimental, company, and platoon observations parties are not very important, the investigation on this matter is extremely brief and nothing is written on the investigation sheet.) The number and type of aircraft and their direction of flight was reported to personnel below, which information was then put into code and sent to the platoon. (The name and duties of officers, N.C.O.'s and other E.M.'s once connected with observation posts and now interned in the Soviet Union are sought.)

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Q - What else?

A - Each day we reported the weather conditions.

Q - What else?

A - . . . ? That is all.

Q - There must be more. You observed the airfield too, didn't you?

A - Oh, the airfield! The airfield was on the other side of the mountain, so we could not see it.

Q - That is understood. But you knew from the take off and landing of aircraft that there was an airfield, didn't you?

A - Yes, we did.

Q - And of course you reported that?

A - No, the existence of an airfield there was known from before, so there was no need to report it. (Here the prisoner of war is questioned on whether that information was reported, but finally conceding that the prisoner of war is telling the truth, the interrogator proceeds.)

Q - Very well, then, what else did you observe?

A - That is all.

Q - You didn't see anything?

A - No, I didn't.

Q - You said that you were a democrat, but that is a lie. You are a fascist. When you return to Japan you will become a soldier again, and as a tool of America fight against the Soviet, won't you?

A - No, I am a democrat. I will never fight again.

Q - Then tell the truth. What else did you see?

A - What else? . . . but I have not seen anything else.

Q - Are you trying to make a fool of me? (Here the prisoner of war is sworn at, or the table pounded.) You are lying, you have seen more. Tell me!

A - More? . . . ???

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Q - (Showing anger). Didn't you see mountains? Didn't you see any villages? Didn't you see any rivers? Can't your eyes see anything but the sky?

A - Oh, mountains! Yes, I saw mountains.

Q - There you are! Trying to tell me you saw nothing. And what was there on the mountains?

A - On the mountains? . . . trees . . . rocks? (Here there are some prisoners of war who claim having observed Soviet positions and pillboxes. Some were not as observing. Interrogation of those who said they saw the positions proceeded along, but those who were not as observing were barraged with the same question until they became convinced that they, too, had observed them.)

Q - How many pillboxes did you see?

A - I saw three directly in front of me.

Q - (The prisoner of war is questioned in great detail on the entering and leaving of Soviet soldiers, movement of units, the relief hours of sentries on Soviet observation towers, the condition of villages, movement of boats in the river, and their cargoes.) Did you report them?

A - No, I didn't report them. Those reports were the responsibility of the infantry observation parties, and not ours.

Q - Wait a minute. There you go talking nonsense again. The infantry made its reports, and you must have made your own.

A - No. Ours was an airforce intelligence unit, so it reported only on matters concerning the airforce. Our chief duty was observing Soviet aircraft that flew across the border.

Q - I know that without having you tell me. The army was not feeding and keeping you for the purpose of having you gaze at red-skirted Soviet girls playing in the villages. Besides there was no aircraft in the air every day. It is impossible that you did not report the enemy's pillboxes and the entering and leaving of Soviet soldiers. (The prisoners of war are repeatedly questioned about this, but everyone replied they had not made such reports. Of 20 airforce intelligence soldiers for whom I interpreted, there was only one who said that he made such a report. There were several who were at this point, intimidated, verbally abused, upbraided, and in the end, thrown into the guard house where they were left for twenty-four hours. As for the others. . . .) You are not the only one I am investigating. I have already investigated several hundred. They have all spoken the truth, made clear breast of the filth of that dark, fascist era, and gone home to Japan. You did make the report, didn't you? Tell the truth and you will be going home on the next boat. If you do not, you will be tried in court under Article 95 and questioned formally.

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A - But I ----????

Q - You talked to your NCO about what you saw, didn't you?

A - Yes, I talked to the NCO about it, but ...

Q - Then the NCO made the report back to the platoon, didn't he?

A - I do not know. Since the relief hours of the Soviet sentries were fixed and it was nothing unusual, there was no reason for him to make a report.

Q - That may be so. However, a moment ago you mentioned having observed about ten soldiers going in some direction. That must have been reported back to the platoon by your NCO.

A - Is that so?

Q - Now you acknowledge that your unit was an informational and intelligence unit, don't you? (Here the prisoner of war is forced into acknowledging such, and the interrogation is brought to a close.)

The prisoner of war wrote out in Japanese:

Date: type, number, and direction of flight of aircraft.

Date: (Same as above.)

Date: Observed border patrol of five soldiers moving from east to west.

Date: A number of boats loaded with what appeared to be military supplies moved up Ussuri River.

Date: Unit about strength of one platoon living in tents.

There were forced to attach their signatures to the above. Automobile drivers with the Air Force Intelligence Unit, who performed no duties on observation towers, were asked if there was anyone to prove their innocence of such activities. Such soldiers gave the names of everyone they knew who was interned in the Soviet, particularly those at NAKHODKA [sic]. They were then compelled to write and sign the statement that they performed their duties as soldiers of the Informational and Intelligence Unit of the Japanese Army. "Intelligence" seemed to be the focal point of the Soviet investigations, and prisoners of war were absolutely forced to acknowledge the fact that they were engaged in that function. Some interpreters translated the Russian word for "Intelligence" as "Spy" (Choho) causing prisoners of war to refuse to attach their signatures, and thereby delaying interrogation proceedings. A meeting was held at which Soviet interpreters were also present, and it was agreed to interpret the word as "Reconnaissance" (Teisatsu).

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Item 3

[Source: Japanese Sergeant Major]

During investigation, subject was clubbed over the head with a pistol butt and then placed in solitary confinement without any blankets when the weather was about 30 degrees below zero. Subject had to jump up and down throughout the night to keep warm.

In general, the prisoners of war are forced to work during the day and interrogated during the night.

Some investigators try to get suspects to admit to false accusations by saying that his friends have already revealed evidences against them.

When suspects are released again to the prisoner of war camps, they are made to swear that they will not reveal the purpose and contents of the investigation. In subject's prisoner of war camp, prisoner of war informants deliberately gave names of those not connected with the "Zenshoku" (former members of the Intelligence, Military Police, Tokumukikan [Japanese counterintelligence and espionage, Police, etc.]), for the sole purpose of winning favoritism from the Russian prisoner of war camp officials.

Item 4

[Source: Japanese Corporal]

Subject was interrogated three (3) times. The investigator tried to connect subject with being a "Tokumukikan."

When a suspect is under investigation he is usually segregated from his friends who are to undergo subsequent questioning.

Russian authorities require the evidence of at least three (3) witnesses to affirm whether or not a suspect is guilty.

Item 5

[Source: Japanese Sergeant]

Subject was interrogated twice in the MITSUI [sic] Building in MUKDEN, MANCHURIA [sic] on the pretense of being a former military policeman and of having organized an underground unit to resist the Soviet occupation of Manchuria. When subject denied knowledge of hidden weapons he was struck on the head with a broken chair leg and then kneed in the stomach, disabling him temporarily. He was told that if he still persisted in taking an "I don't know attitude," he would be whipped until he changed it.

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On both occasions the interpreters were local White Russian prostitutes, probably recruited for this job on a temporary basis. These female interpreters were very incompetent and their knowledge of the Japanese language was very limited. It was believed that the Russians were ill prepared to handle interrogations of this kind due to shortage of Japanese speaking Russian linguists.

Seldom was the investigation report translated into Japanese so the subject could read it over for any misinterpretations. (Before signing his name to it.)

Item 6

[Source: Japanese civilian]

Subject was interrogated three (3) times in MUKDEN, MANCHURIA [sic] prior to being sent to Siberia. He was last interrogated at KARAGANDA [sic].

As commonly practiced by Soviet investigators, when they first entered Manchuria, the first two (2) interrogations involved physical violence. Subject was struck with a stick and knocked to the floor. Again, during the second investigation subject was struck on the head with an iron stoker, causing a deep gash on his head.

The latter violence occurred when the investigator, another officer and a sergeant decided to take time out during the investigation for a drink. Subject claimed that the investigators were intoxicated when this incident occurred. He was given first aid treatment after they realized what they had done.

Subject claimed that the report made by this officer was deliberately distorted because he was later accused during subsequent investigation of having made incriminating statements which involved him in crime against the Soviet Union. Subject claimed that he was not allowed to read the completed report to verify the contents.

During the investigation, the investigator produced several reports, furnished by prisoner of war informants, which he claimed were evidences contradicting his statements. Subject refused to believe these and stubbornly stuck to his story.

Subject was imprisoned in a solitary cell when he denied the investigator's accusations. Food was increased or decreased depending on how cooperative subject was.

Subject was later asked to inform on other prisoner of war suspects.

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Item 7

/Source: Japanese 2d Lieutenant/

In general, prisoners of war who were formerly assigned to units in China were questioned in NAKHODKA /sic/. It was believed that those who participated in action against the Communist forces were detained and sent to the interior. (Note: Excluding war criminals).

MINSHU /sic/ Group /so-called Democratic Movement in camps, corresponded to "Antifa" in German camps/ activists were utilized to a large extent as informants for the investigating officer. Rumor was prevalent in CHEREMKHOVO /sic/ #32/8 Prisoner of War Camp that some of the informants received monetary compensation for revealing names of suspects. A large number of prisoners of war were intimidated into revealing names of suspects.

The investigating officers were usually MVD officers assigned to each prisoner of war camp. Occasionally MVD officers were dispatched from the District MVD Headquarters for the sole purpose of conducting interrogations. The average rank of investigating officers was lieutenant.

Majority of the investigating officers are believed to have had little experience in investigation work. They all seemed to go into a tangent and over emphasize the insignificant rather than important things. None of these investigating officers spoke Japanese. The interrogations were conducted with incompetent interpreters who often times misinterpreted the suspects' statements.

None of the suspects who underwent interrogation were reminded of their rights as prisoners of war.

Investigation became stringent simultaneously with the activation of the MINSHU Group. Prior to this, prisoners of war regardless of their rank, past assignments, ideals, etc., were repatriated without undergoing investigation.

Item 8

/Source: Japanese Superior Private/

Members of the military police, Tokumukikan, Intelligence personnel and spies, who are responsible for aiding in the prosecution of war against the Soviets, and those that have arrested communists, have been or are in the process of being sent to KHABAROVSK /sic/ for trial in military court. The rest have been assembled and placed in special PW Camps, under heavy guard.

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In KHURMULI [sic], there was a District OCHYO [sic] (Investigation Section) staffed with a lieutenant colonel and 15 company grade officers to assist him. At vital areas, sub-offices have been established to house the investigators from the above district OCHYO [sic], who are then dispatched to various prisoner of war camps to conduct interrogations. None of the investigators are stationed in the prisoner of war camps. Instead, liaison is maintained with the personnel office within each prisoner of war camp, Russian prisoner-of-war camp doctors, and informants who have been instructed to report any suspicious prisoners who may be potential war criminals.

One investigator employed the following method in getting evidence on a suspect. First the suspect was thrown in solitary confinement for a short period without any food and then released. An informant was secretly planted in the prisoner of war camp to observe the suspect's actions. At the right time the informant approached the suspect, striking up a conversation and pretending to sympathize with him when he heard that he was investigated. Around lunch time the informant invited suspect out to lunch, to which the suspect readily agreed since he was always hungry. After a few days of this the informant was able to convince him that he was his true friend, since he too was also suspected by the Russian authorities, and that the two (2) should stick together. In a short time the informant was able to get the information that was required.

Item 9

[Source: Japanese civilian]

Subject was interrogated at KHABAROVSK [sic].

With the aid of informants the Russian investigators first seek out the suspect's former assignment.

The purpose for calling a suspect in for questioning is well concealed. To the rest of the prisoners of war it is made to appear as though the suspect is called in for a reprimand regarding his work. With the definite purpose of trying to connect suspect with being a potential war criminal the investigation usually starts with some critical remarks regarding suspect's work in the field thus throwing him momentarily off guard.

When a suspect is called in for interrogation he is usually asked if he has family in Japan or if he wishes to be repatriated. He is told that if he refuses to tell the truth he will not be repatriated and that he will be secretly shot.

When the investigation makes no headway, the investigator frequently loses his temper and flashes a pistol at the suspect, thus hoping to draw out information.

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After several attempts, if the suspect still refuses to talk or reveal the desired information he is thrown in solitary cell sans shoes or outer garments leaving him with only shorts to combat the bitter below zero weather. When the cold becomes unbearable the suspect will jump up and down until the guard comes around to stop him.

Suspects are freely thrown in solitary confinement purely to torture their mind into revealing the information. Confinement can be from one week to a month or even longer. While in confinement suspects are given one hundred fifty (150) grams of black bread and salty soup daily. Within a few days suspects become so hunger-ridden that they admit to anything, regardless of the consequences.

When the investigator is unable to get any information on a particular suspect in one camp he may be transferred to another camp until an informant recognizes him.

If the findings during the interrogation proves important, higher ranking officers (field grade) are called to make further detailed interrogation. Normally company grade officers carry out majority of the investigations.

Informants, depending on the successfulness of their work, received fiftyb(50) rubles while others received preferential treatment, such as menial work within the prisoner of war camp or work in the kitchen where plenty of good food is assured.

If the informant becomes known to other prisoners of war, that informant is usually transferred to another prisoner of war camp where he continues with the work unhampered.

Spies are sometimes sent into the cell pretending to comfort the suspect thereby winning his confidence and perhaps later revealing matters sought by the investigator.

Considerable number of "ZENSHOKU" /sic/ (Military Police, Intelligence, etc.) personnel are used as informants and are promised with early repatriation, good treatment, etc. These informants are well qualified . . . /for/ the work due to their extensive training in spy work with the Japanese Army.

Some of the former Japanese "Tokumukikan," White Russian and Japanese spies, trained at the HARBIN /sic/ Institute have become interpreters for the Russian investigators. These interpreters due to their background took a leading role in the investigation work itself. . . .

The interrogation conducted at subject's prisoner of war camp was based mostly on the following: Whereabouts of the Russian spies sent into Manchuria. Japanese contacts in Siberia. This is for the purpose of prosecuting the traitorous Russian agents of the Japanese.

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The Russians are known to lie. During interrogation it is best not to heed their promises. Better to face the fact, than trying to escape from it; the result would be the same anyway.

If one is under suspicion it is a good policy to fake illness and be transferred to a hospital. The Russians very seldom interrogated patients. The patients, upon recovering are usually sent to other prisoners of war camps. Thus your chance of escaping an investigation is improved.

Item 10

/Source: Japanese 1st Lieutenant/

Subject acted as interpreter during one (1) investigation.

This interrogation was conducted during the winter months when the weather was extremely cold. The suspect who refused to cooperate with the investigator was placed in an unheated cell. The suspect was put on starvation diet for a period of time and during interrogation rich food was placed in front of him to induce him to talk.

Item 11

/Source: Japanese civilian/

Subject was investigated twice at the KRASNOYARSK /sic/ #34/5 Prisoner of War Camp. After being cleared, this subject acted as an interpreter for two subsequent investigations conducted at the MVD Headquarters in KRASNOYARSK /sic/.

During the first stage of investigation, Japanese Prisoners of War were used extensively as interpreters or they investigated for the investigating officer. This was due to lack of Japanese speaking Russian personnel. Later White Russians from Manchuria were recruited and made to interpret at the investigations. These interpreters were highly inexperienced and unqualified in this field of work. Consequently mistakes were made in the reports and innocent suspects were adjudged guilty of "crimes" they never committed. Many of the prisoners of war are still suffering from this fate without any hopes of rectifying the situation.

The investigators that this subject had personal contact with were believed to be mediocre as investigators; they appear to lack finesse in their interrogation methods. They were unable to gather intelligence systematically and they seem to deviate frequently from their primary objective. For instance, one (1) investigator was trying to find out how much information was gotten across the border into Manchuria, but he ended up by concentrating on the duties and missions of the "Tokumukikan

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Item 12

[Source: Japanese soldier, rank unknown]

Subject was informed on by a friend who was in the same unit. The investigator probed for information regarding the Japanese Police System. Subject was interrogated by an MVD officer who was dispatched from the MVD Office, in SPAASK [sic] and in ARTEM [sic] by the MVD Officer detailed to the prisoner of war camp.

From personal observation, subject is inclined to think that Russian investigators are rather incompetent in their field. They seem to try to seek information on something they know nothing about without first making a research. For instance, the organization of the Japanese Police System. Normally if an investigator is interested in the above, he would first make some attempt to know something about the subject before commencing with the interrogation. Often times the investigator would be too gullible and made a fool of only because he was completely ignorant of the subject he was delving into.

The Russian investigators usually follow the "You are guilty unless you can prove otherwise" method of interrogation. They try to force the suspect to admit what they think is right. Until a satisfactory answer is given, the investigator will persistently repeat the same question over and over again. The Russian method of interrogation appears to follow one pattern. Thus, suspects with reasonable amount of intelligence can perceive beforehand what question will be asked next.

The investigators very seldom resort to physical violence, but instead they put suspects in solitary cells with little or no food over a period of days, thus torturing them mentally. This to the Russians is believed the most effective method in drawing out information.

Item 13

[Source: Japanese 2d Lieutenant]

Subject heard that the most effective torture method to which suspects were subjected at this camp was putting them in a small cell and forcing them to stand up throughout the night, with only three hundred (300) grams of black bread and water for diet. Interrogations were then deliberately conducted late in the night when suspects were too sleepy or tired to withstand the ordeal. Many of them passed out during the interrogation.

Spies, ostensibly to comfort the suspects in solitary cells, were infrequently sent in to collect information for the investigation

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Subject believes the most effective means of extracting information from a stubborn suspect is to starve him or otherwise subject him to harsh treatment and then promise him that he would be repatriated early if he reveals all he knows.

Item 14

[Source: Japanese 2d Lieutenant]

Subject was interrogated at TSITSIHAR [sic], Manchuria where he was suspected of being a member of a guerrilla unit which was to harass the Soviet Occupation troops. Subject was questioned at all hours of the day and night for ten (10) straight days. Some of the interrogations were twelve to fourteen (12 to 14) hours in duration.

Subject was hit with fists, given the water treatment, shocked with live wires, had pieces of wood twice as thick as pencils put between his fingers and squeezed. This subject was shot in the leg with a pistol. The latter occurred when subject became so enraged at the investigator's tactics that he demanded to be shot if they doubted him so much. Subject was given soy sauce to dress his wound with. The investigator was an MVD senior lieutenant, whose name the subject unfortunately did not know.

Subject does not know whether or not the Russian investigator falsified his answers because he wrote his statements in Japanese and this was translated. He was ordered to sign the translated report but since the interpreter refused to divulge the contents he refused to sign it and was beaten again.

The majority of the prisoners of war who were interrogated in Manchuria were reported to have been abused by the investigating officers. Many of them bear marks of violence on their bodies. Contrary to the above, subject stated that investigations in the USSR were conducted rather "humanely" except for the solitary cell treatment.

Subject stated that of the various treatments he received at the hands of Soviet investigators, the solitary cell treatments he received were the most effective method. After a few days in an unheated, dark cell, without food and bedding, a suspect will admit anything. . . .

Item 15

[Source: Japanese Corporal]

Extensive use of prisoner of war informants, usually MINSHU [sic] Group "aktiv" was made by the Russians to collect information on suspected prisoners of war. Some of the prisoners of war were believed to have collected information voluntarily and informed the Russian officials purely for selfish reasons. Thus it came to a point where one could not trust even his best friends.

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Item 16

[Source: Japanese 2d Class Private]

Subject was suspected of being a "Tokumukikan" purely because he spoke fluent Russian. He was interrogated twice at the ANGREN [sic] #372/2 Prisoner of War Camp.

While the interrogation was in progress a Captain (name unknown) barged in and relieved the investigator (2d Lt "ARUHIPOVICH" [sic]) because he thought the interrogation was being conducted too leniently. This Captain was very arrogant and he gloated in seeing the subject suffer.

Subject was thrown in a solitary cell for eighty (80) days when he denied the Captain's accusation. Subject stated that the suffering he went through in this cell cannot be described with words.

The standard diet for the inmates of this cell was four hundred (400) grams of black bread, forty five (45) grams of cereal, five hundred (500) grams of vegetables and seven (7) grams of sugar daily. However, the full ration was never received because the guards had a tendency to pilfer the food while it was being delivered.

Item 17

[Source: Japanese Superior Private]

The Russian investigators have a tendency at the slightest provocation to throw suspects in solitary confinement with meagre bread ration and tea. The degree of provocation, however, is never standard but depends on the mood of the investigator.

Many suspects are made to admit or reveal information by simply promising them good treatment and early repatriation after subjecting them to harsh treatment. This is believed the most effective and popular method of drawing out information from stubborn suspects.

Item 18

[Source: Japanese 2d Lieutenant]

In general, the interrogations are conducted during the night, after the prisoners of war returned from a hard day of work. These interrogations sometimes continue throughout the night and the morning without sleep or rest. This type of interrogation is usually continued over a period of time until the interrogee breaks down or until such time as the investigator feels satisfied with the testimony.

Since abusing the prisoners of war during interrogation is a violation of the Soviet Criminal Code, most of the investigators are believed to be abiding by the regulation. (NOTE: Placing suspects in solitary cells with

little or no food is apparently permitted.) However, there are occasions where investigators disregard the Code and resort to violence. For instance, subject heard from a YOSHIDA [sic], (PNU) former "Tokumukikan," that during interrogation the investigator crushed a live cigarette against his nose, whipped him with a leather belt and placed him in a solitary cell on starvation diet.

A number of probationary interpreters (Russians) are sent to various prisoner of war camps to become familiar with the Japanese language and customs. Among them are young girls (average 20 years of age) who practice at investigations conducted on prisoner of war suspects. Due to this fact, many errors are made in the investigation report thus causing undue hardship on the prisoner of war suspects. Subject observed four (4) young female interpreters from MOSCOW [sic] who came to the RAICHIKHINSK [sic] #19/1 Branch Prisoner of War Camp to study the language. These girls were given free reign of the prisoner of war camp, mixing with the prisoners as much as possible.

Item 19

[Source: Japanese Corporal]

Subject was imprisoned for two (2) months at the MVD Headquarters in KHURMULI [sic] during which time he underwent successive interrogations regarding his past activities as a policeman. Later he was suspected of being a former "Tokumukikan."

The regular food allotted prisoner-of-war inmates in the solitary cell was fixed at three hundred fifty (350) grams of bread and water daily. Subject however received only about one hundred (100) grams daily. Infrequently small amounts of meat and vegetables were brought in to augment the starvation diet. On several occasions subject was denied food altogether. During the second month of imprisonment, the subject became so emaciated from hunger that he had to use a walking stick even to go to and from the latrine.

The interpreter for the investigation was a White Russian, presumably recruited from the White Russian settlement in HARBIN [sic], Manchuria. The White Russian's linguistic ability was very limited, and as a result, the subject was often misquoted during the interrogation.

The interpreter's monthly salary was only eight hundred (800) rubles after various deductions. This was far too inadequate for him to make a fair living. He was often observed pilfering food which was provided for the prisoners of war imprisoned at this headquarters.

The interrogation of "Zenshoku" personnel (Former Military Police, Tokumukikan, Police, Intelligence personnel, etc.) became active simultaneously with the formation of the MINSHU [sic] Group. Until then it was

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extremely difficult for the Russians to detect these personnel because they had faked their former assignment. . . . Together with the aid of prisoner of war interpreters the Russians thus began whole-sale investigation of the "Zenshoku" personnel.

The purpose behind the mass interrogation is much deeper than one thinks. It is apparent that the Russians are desperately looking for evidences and material for the coming Japanese Peace Treaty Conference which would enable her to have more than a "grandstand seat."

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APPENDIX IX

Documentary Excerpt:  
North Korean Interrogation Methods

[Note: This analysis was based on information obtained from fourteen prisoner-of-war interrogation reports, the translation of an enemy document, and the special interrogation of three liberated American prisoners of war. While this information, strictly speaking, falls outside the scope of this study, it has been included in this appendix because it is pertinent, timely, and significant.]

a. General. Initially, responsibility for PW questioning along military lines apparently was vested in NK reconnaissance units at the various echelons beginning with the regiment. These interrogations were brief and were limited to the obtaining of combat intelligence of immediate value to the unit concerned. Upon completion of this phase captives were turned over to the NK security police of the Ministry of the Interior, who continued interrogating along strategic and political lines. Later reports indicate, however, that unit interrogations may now be conducted, at least in part, by newly-formed divisional psychological warfare sections. . . . Detailed information concerning NK interrogation procedures (as applied to US PWs) has been obtained from three liberated US PWs, an officer and two NCOs, all of whom were captured in September /1950/ and spent nearly a month in captivity. Their statements reveal the following items of particular significance:

1) Interrogations are characterized by almost complete channelization along political lines in an apparent attempt to reveal generally the political stability of the average American soldier and, in particular, to determine the possibility of converting the interrogee to communistic tenets. The eliciting of military information appears to be of secondary importance.

2) Soviet officers accompanied combat units south of the 38th Parallel and conducted interrogations of selected US officer personnel.

\* Reference: T/I, G-2, GHQ, FEC, Report No. TB-1161-50, 30 Oct 50,  
Sub: North Korean PW Interrogation Methods (S).

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3) Accurate dossiers on officers of at least one US division, the 24th, are available to NK interrogators and were apparently compiled from information contained in official correspondence to which native NK intelligence agents could not have had access.

b. Selection for Interrogation: A captured enemy document offers some insight into initial processing of UN PWs and their selection for interrogation by NKA personnel. According to this document, a staff field manual, PWs are segregated according to rank and the units to which they were assigned. Officers and enlisted men are handled separately. Interrogations at regimental level are simple and calculated to obtain only that data which bears on the unit's immediate operations. Interrogation data thus obtained is recorded on special forms and, together with any captured documents, accompanies the PW to division headquarters. The division reconnaissance chief, after a preliminary inspection of the interrogation forms, selects likely informants and supervises their interrogation along lines determined by the intelligence requirements of various staff sections. The interrogations are submitted immediately to corps headquarters regardless of whether the interrogees are to be detained or turned over to NK police authorities. Although these regulations are definite, indications are that they are not universally observed. In actual practice, interrogation at regimental level seems to be limited to officers and selected NCOs, probably due to lack of sufficient linguists, but is quite detailed when warranted. The remaining enlisted men apparently are turned directly over to NK police for questioning, processing, and evacuation. Officers remain in military channels back to army level before being released to police custody.

c. Officer Interrogation: The following description of NK officer interrogation methods was obtained from a US Lieutenant from the 24th Division who was one of a group of US and ROK soldiers captured near Pohang by elements of the NK 12th Division on 12 Sept:

1) Initial Processing: At the company CP, an NK soldier recorded the name, rank, and organization of all US personnel. After a wait of 30 minutes, the Lieutenant was marched back to the battalion and later to the regimental CP. At one of these he was asked to fill out a form. Included on this paper was a question as to whether or not he required medical attention and a list giving him as a PW, three choices of action: first, to return to the front and take up arms against UN forces; second, to be released so that he could work his way back to friendly lines; and third, to be interned at a PW camp in Seoul. The lieutenant states that he was not permitted to make a choice.

2) Regimental Interrogation: The lieutenant was subjected to his first interrogation at regimental headquarters approximately six hours after his capture. An NK major interpreter-interrogator did the questioning. He followed a printed form which contained about 250 questions and was divided into several sections. The first group of questions concerned

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the organization, strength, and equipment of the interrogees unit and followed a sequence which reminded the lieutenant of US FMs 191-5 and 101-10. The next three groups pertained to logistics, tactics, and the use of combined arms respectively. The following section contained questions of a personal nature. The last group was political in scope and contained such questions as: "How do US EM feel toward cabinet members?" The political affiliations of the interrogee were also taken up here. The entire interrogation lasted approximately three hours. At the conclusion, the lieutenant was informed that he would be given an opportunity to study the works of Engels and Marx in the Seoul internment camp.

3) Division Interrogation: The second interrogation of this officer was conducted at division headquarters and lasted approximately one hour. Questioning was handled by a Soviet army officer dressed in the uniform of an NKA captain. An NK major acted as interpreter. A clerk wrote down answers to the questions in Russian; questioning was done spontaneously without reference to an outline or guide. Queries were non-military in nature and generally covered political subjects. A discussion was conducted into the relative merits of democracy and communism, with the Soviet officer attempting to prove fallacies in the belief that democracy was preferable to communistic concepts. During that time he was assigned to the 19th Infantry Regiment; the interrogator went to a large cardboard file and brought out folders labeled with numerical designations corresponding to the three infantry regiments of the 24th Division. A search of the files revealed that the lieutenant was being carried as assigned to the 34th Regiment. This had been true, as the PW had only recently been assigned to the 19th. A dossier was then removed from the file and the officer was read a complete history of his life, including information which allegedly could only have been obtained for a personal history statement (Form 643) filed in the United States in 1946. At the conclusion of the interview the PW was told that he would be reinterrogated at army level.

4) Corps Interrogation: A third interrogation, lasting 5 to 6 hours was conducted by another NKA major at corps headquarters. Parts of this interview were recorded. The major, who stated that he was a former English professor at Seoul University, volunteered the information that he was corps director of propaganda and that his duties included the organizing of propaganda programs aired over Radio Seoul. He explained that UN prisoners were required to read prepared statements to the effect that they were receiving good treatment. According to the US officer, these recordings were generally accomplished at the point of a gun to preclude deviations from the script. The interrogation conducted at this level was apparently another effort to persuade the interrogee to re-examine his political ideology. Great pains were taken to explain the basic concepts of communistic doctrine. The

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questioning was devoid of military significance until the corps artillery officer appeared and interjected a request for information concerning US artillery time fuses. He could not understand why certain fuses gave "three bursts" while others did not. The PW replied that it was obviously the result of faulty manufacturing, an answer which apparently satisfied the NK officer.

5) Army Interrogation: The fourth and final interrogation of this officer PW was undertaken at army level and lasted approximately 8 hours. Two interpreters were used during this session; one a SK woman, the other a man who claimed to be a civilian and who stated that he was undergoing confinement as the result of a criminal act. The lieutenant believes that he was an informer attempting to gain his confidence. The interrogators were two Soviet officers wearing the uniforms of an NKA Lt. Colonel and Colonel respectively. The Lt. Colonel was present throughout the interview; the Colonel appeared intermittently. The Lt. Colonel directed the conversation into such channels as politics in the United States, the contrasting ideals of communism and democracy and the superiority of the former. He also attempted to draw the PW into an argument over the comparative merits of the US and Soviet armies. American literature was introduced as an excuse to inquire into the receptiveness of the US public to "liberal" political treaties. Questions were asked, aimed at determining the military educational level and economic background of US army officers and EM. Military equipment was compared. The lieutenant was asked if the US is geared for war production, particularly with regard to aircraft and armor. He was also queried concerning matters of immediate tactical value. Questions along these lines included the number of ships in the Seventh Fleet, the location of airfields basing fighter and bombardment aviation groups, and the number of aircraft based in Japan. Intermittently during the discussion the Colonel interspersed questions to clear up points which he did not thoroughly understand. The Lt. Colonel attempted to point out to the officer what he termed errors in political thinking. It was obvious that the Soviet officers considered this session as an indoctrination course and that any significant information derived in the process was incidental and of secondary import. No specific strategic information regarding US industry or production potential was sought.

d. Enlisted PW Interrogation: Fragmentary information indicates that, with few exceptions, captured US enlisted personnel, both NCOs and privates, are turned directly over to NK Security Police without interrogation by NKA military authorities. That perfunctory questioning is carried out under the supervision of police officials, however, is evident from the statements of two 2d US Division NCOs who were captured in the Chinju Area early in Sep. Their interrogation was carried out in three phases. The ninth day after capture a short interview was accomplished to determine the name, rank, age, home state, and organization of each

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prisoner. The place of capture and the names of casualties were also noted. On the 17th day of capture the first bona fide interrogation was conducted by a police inspector and another official from the same organization. This session lasted one-half hour and consisted of the filling out of a typewritten form by the interrogators. The following questions were asked: the number of men in your unit; the number of ships in the convoy in which you came to Korea; the number of divisions composing the UN army; the amount and type of equipment used; the number of US tanks in the combat area and their location; whether or not Japanese nationals are fighting or will fight in Korea. Information regarding the various national detachments composing the UN force was sought. The captives were asked why US soldiers were fighting in Korea. If, during the course of the questioning, a PW gave an unsatisfactory answer, the interrogator would modify or change the statement to conform to his own desires. At the conclusion of the interrogation the PWs were informed that they would be given an opportunity to study communistic doctrine when they were interned in Seoul. A second interview, lasting about five minutes, was given each man individually. It also followed a regular printed form. The questions were as follows: Are you wealthy or poor? (Any soldier who was over 30 was automatically classified as rich.) Are you a landowner or a tenant? Are your parents rich or poor; landowners or tenants? What are your political beliefs and affiliations? Were you drafted into the army? A reservist? A volunteer? A regular?

e. Coercive Measures: Information concerning the use of coercive measures by NK interrogators to induce UN prisoners to talk freely, while fragmentary, nonetheless indicates the harsh and vindictive treatment accorded captured personnel attempting to avail themselves of the rights guaranteed by the Geneva Convention. The two liberated 2d US Division NCOs state that a company commander and first sergeant from their organization were murdered after refusing to give information other than their name, rank, and serial number. The 24th US Division lieutenant was struck across the mouth for failure to show proper deference toward his interrogator. He was then informed that PWs could be shot for not showing proper respect toward their questioners (an evasive answer during interrogation is considered disrespectful). The interrogation of a captured NK officer revealed that a group of US PWs were assassinated for demanding humane treatment and refusing to divulge military information. While normal interrogation procedures relative to the questioning of ROK military personnel are unknown, several instances have been reported where ROK soldiers have been subjected to vicious torture in order to make them talk. Measures utilized reportedly ranged from brutal facial beatings to the application of the ancient "water treatment." One instance has been noted where a ROK PW was outlined by pistol fire in an effort to make him talk. When this failed, he was brutally murdered.

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